



BLACK LAGOON

107

STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
**EXPLICIT
CONTENT**

REI HIROE

It's volume 7. Good job, me.



Rei Hiroe was born on December 5, 1972. After working at a game company, he debuted as a mangaka in 1993. He has been an active illustrator and dojinshi, and has created many titles released through the dojin community. He is best known for his works, *Hisuikyoutan* and *SHOOK UP!* (both currently available in new formats published by Shogakukan) and his first artwork collection, *Barrage*.

BLACK LAGOON

007

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by
REI HIROE

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BLACK LAGOON is rated M for Mature and is recommended for mature readers.
This volume contains graphic violence, strong language, nudity, adult situations,
drinking, smokin', ass-kickin', law breakin', gun-love, running with scissors and
just about everything your mother ever told you not to do.
ratings.viz.com

LAGOON





Dutch

SKIPPER OF THE OF THE BLACK LAGOON AND LEADER OF THE CREW. DUTCH STAYS COOL NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET. HIS BACKGROUND INCLUDES MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TOUR IN VIETNAM.

Benny

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONICS ONBOARD THE BLACK LAGOON. BENNY ESCAPED FROM THE U.S. AND IS ON THE RUN FROM BOTH THE FBI AND THE MAFIA.

Crew of the Black Lagoon

Rock

A FORMER JAPANESE SALARYMAN, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA. ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY AFTER THE CREW OF THE BLACK LAGOON ABDUCTED HIM, ROCK LATER JOINED HIS CAPTORS.

Revy

THE BLACK LAGOON'S TOP GUNSLINGER, NICKNAMED "TWO HAND." HER FOUL MOUTH AND EXTREMELY SHORT FUSE USUALLY GET HER IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.

STORY

ROCK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ROKURO OKAJIMA, WAS A FACELESS EMPLOYEE AT A LARGE JAPANESE COMPANY. ABDUCTED BY THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LAGOON* AND CALLOUSLY ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY, HE TAKES ON THE NAME "ROCK" AND JOINS THE SMUGGLERS AS AN APPRENTICE SAILOR.

ROANAPUR IS A ROUGH AND TUMBLE CITY WHERE CRIME SYNDICATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD COMPETE FOR THEIR SHARE OF THE BLACK MARKET. JUST AS ROCK AWAKENS TO HIS NEW LIFE AS AN OUTLAW, RUMORS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE CITY THAT "THE MAID" ROBERTA HAS RETURNED. WHAT IS ROBERTA DOING IN ROANAPUR AND WHAT DOES SHE WANT?



Chang

BOSS OF THE ROANAPUR BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG TRIAD CRIMINAL GANG.



Balalaika

BOSS OF THE THAI BRANCH OF "HOTEL MOSCOW," A NOTED RUSSIAN CRIMINAL GANG. BALALAICA ONCE WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE RED ARMY OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.



LOVELACE FAMILY MAID. ROBERTA'S SUBORDINATE.

Garcia

NEXT HEAD OF THE LOVELACE FAMILY, ONE OF THE 13 FAMILIES OF SOUTH AMERICA. HIS FATHER IS DIEGO LOVELACE.



Roberta

THE LOVELACE FAMILY "HEAD MATRON." AN EX-TERRORIST ONCE FEARED AS "THE BLOODHOUND OF FLORENCIA."

BLACK LAGOON



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007

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INDEED,
DUTCH.
BUT...

THE PROBLEM
WAS THE
HEAD OF THE
LOVELACE FAMILY
WAS ON THE
STAGE WHEN
THE BOMB WENT
OFF.

SO THE FLIP
SIDE IS THIS
PARTY CAN'T
BE MUCH FUN...

...FOR
ANYONE
HIRING THE
POOR FOR
ABOUT A
NICKEL A DAY.



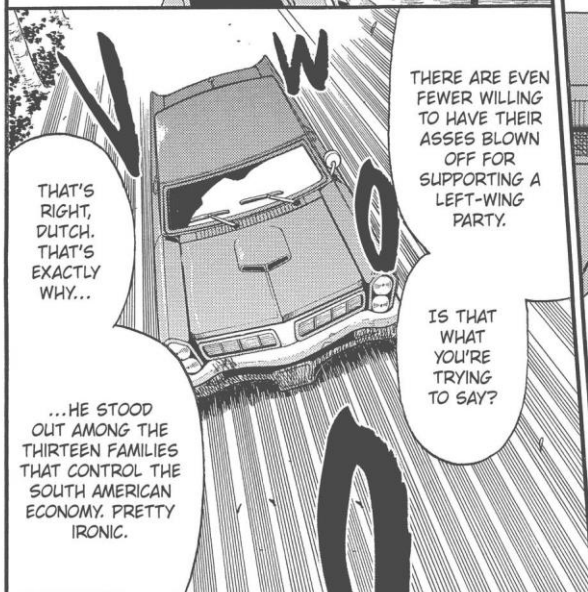
YEAH,
BUT...

...THERE
AREN'T MANY
RICH FOLKS UP
FOR GETTING
SPRAYED WITH
BULLETS IN THE
JUNGLES OF
BOLIVIA. AND-

CHE
GUEVARA
CAME FROM
A WEALTHY
FAMILY TOO,
BENNY.



...WHAT?



THAT'S
RIGHT,
DUTCH.
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY...

...HE STOOD
OUT AMONG THE
THIRTEEN FAMILIES
THAT CONTROL THE
SOUTH AMERICAN
ECONOMY. PRETTY
IRONIC.

THERE ARE EVEN
FEWER WILLING
TO HAVE THEIR
ASSES BLOWN
OFF FOR
SUPPORTING A
LEFT-WING
PARTY.

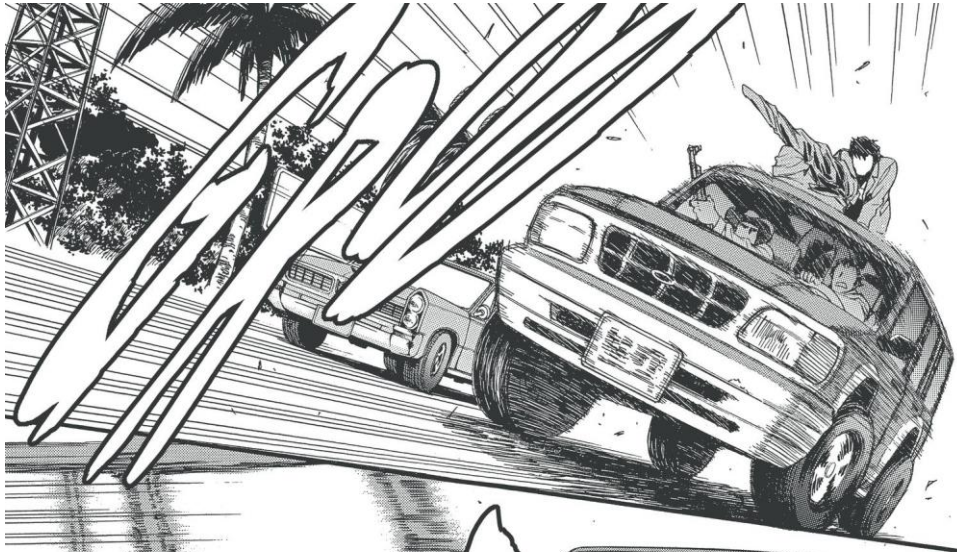
IS THAT
WHAT
YOU'RE
TRYING
TO SAY?



HE AND
THE PARTY
LEADER
WERE
FRIENDS.

HE WAS ALSO
A LIBERAL,
WHICH IS
RARE FOR
THEIR KIND.









ARE
YOU...



DON'T
YOU
ANSWER
THAT.

I DON'T
WANT ANY
MORE
TROUBLE.



IT'S MY
PHONE!!

LET
GO!!

KABLAM
BLAM
BLAM

...FUCKING
CRAZY?!

WE DON'T
GOT TIME
FOR NO
COMEDY
ROUTINE!
GIVE IT TO
ME!!

BWAHAHA
HAHAHA

IT'S LIKE
SATURDAY
NIGHT LIVE!

ROCK!
LOOK!
LOOK!









AW GREAT,
GUSTAVO!

NOW I'M
GONNA
HAVE TO
REBUILD
AGAIN!

HEH
HEH
HEH...

PLACE IS A
SHITHOLE
ANYWAY. I'M
DOIN' YOU A
FAVOR, BAO.

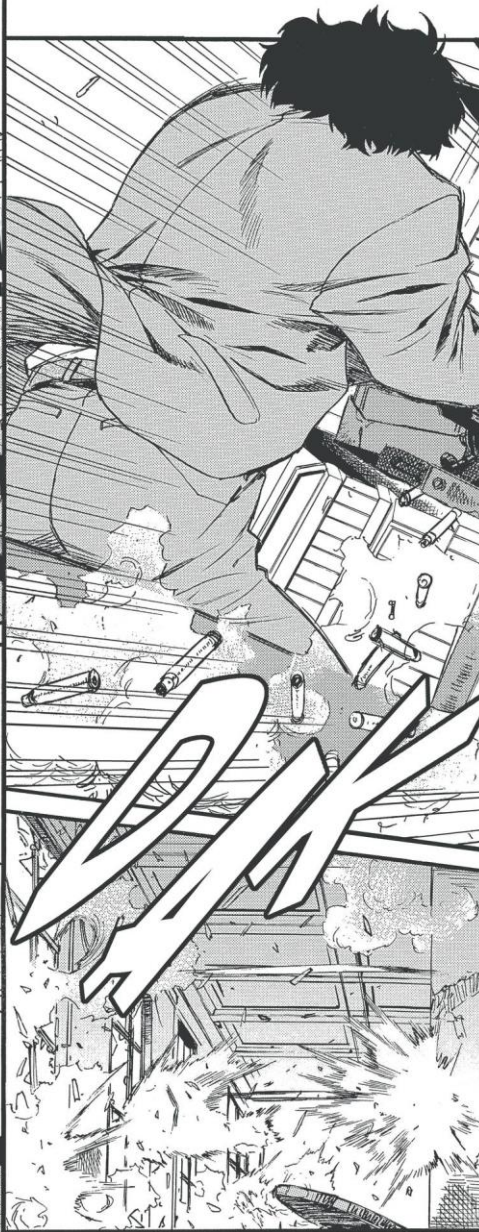


FORGET
THAT!

THAT
LITTLE
BITCH GET
BLOWN TO
BITS YET!?

WHO
KNOWS?

AS FAR
AS I CAN
TELL...







THERE'S
NO
REASON
TO BE
LOYAL TO
HIM!

LISTEN
UP, YOU
SCUMBAGS!

BO

TAKE THE
INJURED
...

...AND GO
OUT THE
BACK WHILE
YOU CAN!!

YOUR BOSS
IS A PIG! HE
DOESN'T
GIVE A DAMN
ABOUT YOU!

W
NOW GET
OUTTA
HERE!

A A A A
IF YOU
STILL
WANNA
STICK
AROUND...
...YOU
CAN DIE
HERE
WITH ME!

HOW
REFRESHING.
BUT SHE
WON'T LIVE
LONG LIKE
THAT.

WHOA
...
SHE'S
LIKE THE
SHERIFF.

T M P



THE HEAD
MATRON WAS
RIGHT! THIS
PLACE...

...IS
HORRIBLE!

ZWP

WHAT...
...THE
HELL IS
THAT?

NOBODY
HERE
THINKS
TWICE ABOUT
WAVING
THEIR GUNS
AROUND.

THIS
PLACE...

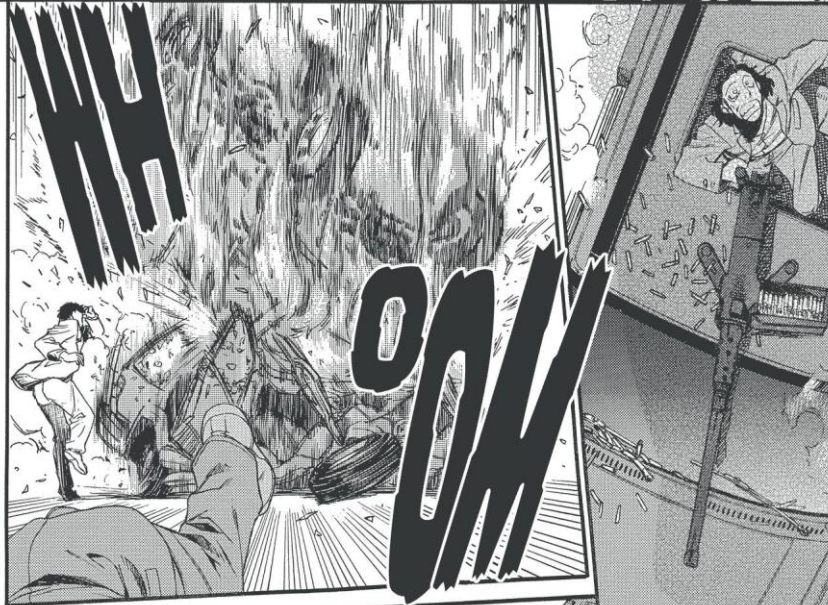
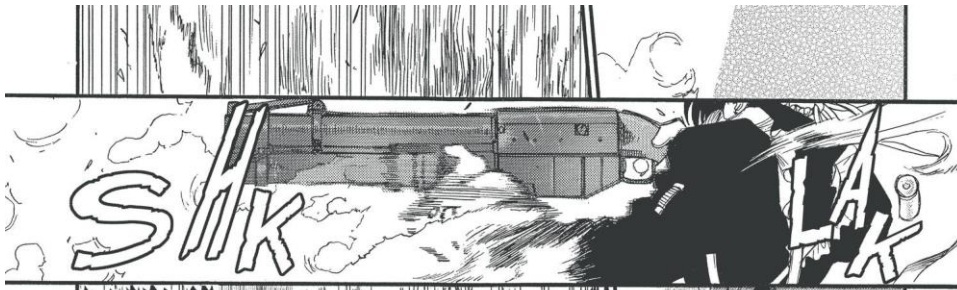
...REALLY
IS THE
WORST!

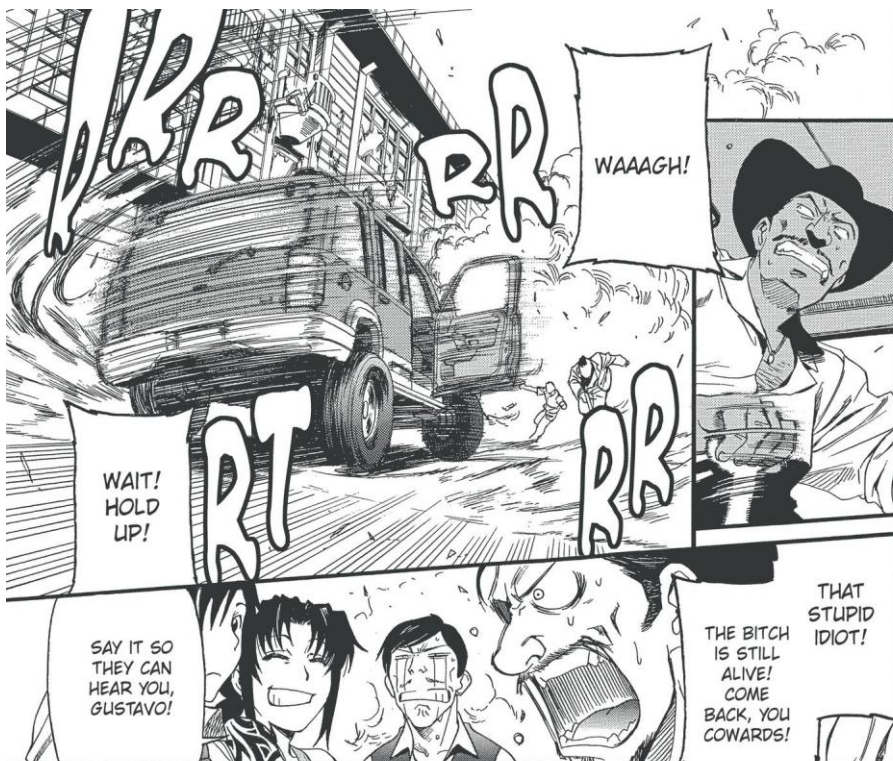
SH



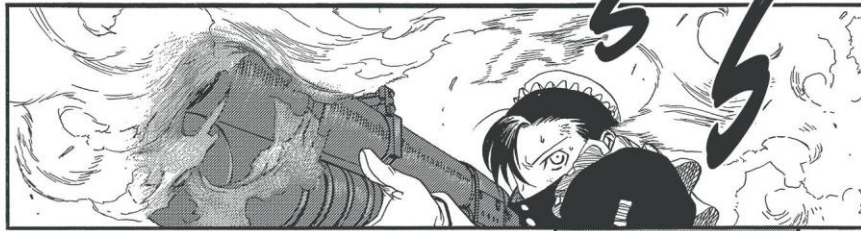
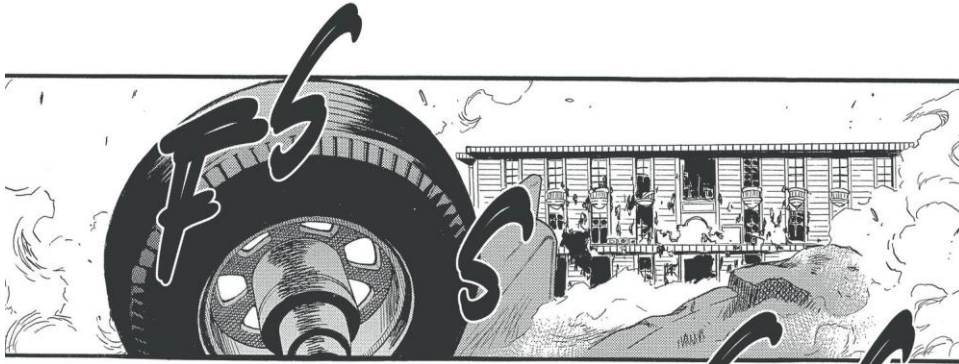












Chapter 48: El Baile de la Muerte - Part V



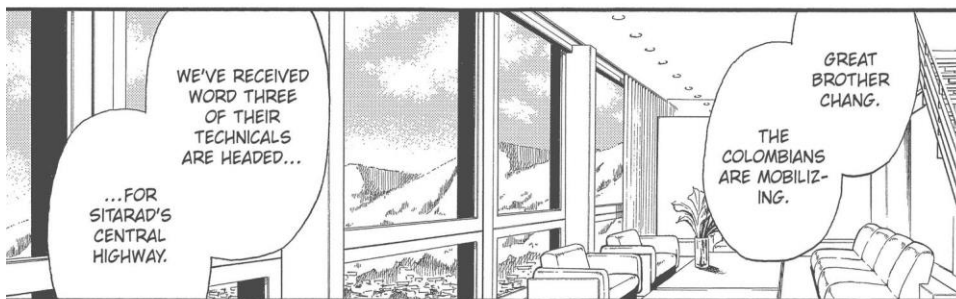
















THE
IDENTITY...

...OF
HER ENEMY
STILL ISN'T
CLEAR.

BUT...

...YES,
GREAT
BROTHER.

OKAY THEN.
A LITTLE
INVESTIGATION
AND GETTING
THAT MUCH IS
EASY.

BILU.

SHE'S OUT
FOR REVENGE
BECAUSE
OF THAT
TERRORIST
BOMB ATTACK
THAT BLEW HER
MASTER TO
BITS, RIGHT?

...HER TARGET
IS HERE. THE
BLOODHOUND
CAME TO TOWN
FOLLOWING THE
SCENT OF HER
PREY.

THE MAID
SHIFTED HER
FOCUS HERE
FOR HER FOX
HUNT.

THAT
MEANS...

AS LONG AS
IT DOESN'T
HARM US.

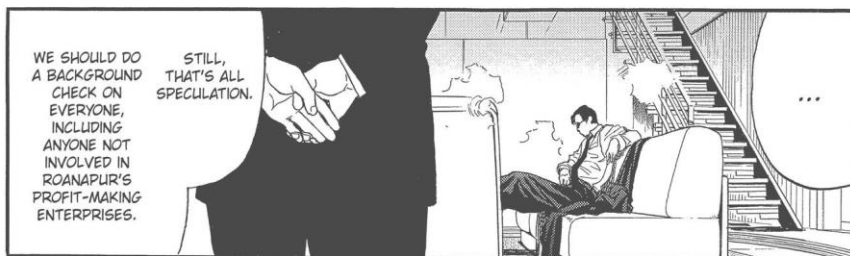
SHE CAN
GET HER
REVENGE
OR KILL AS
MANY PEOPLE
AS SHE
WANTS.
WHATEVER.

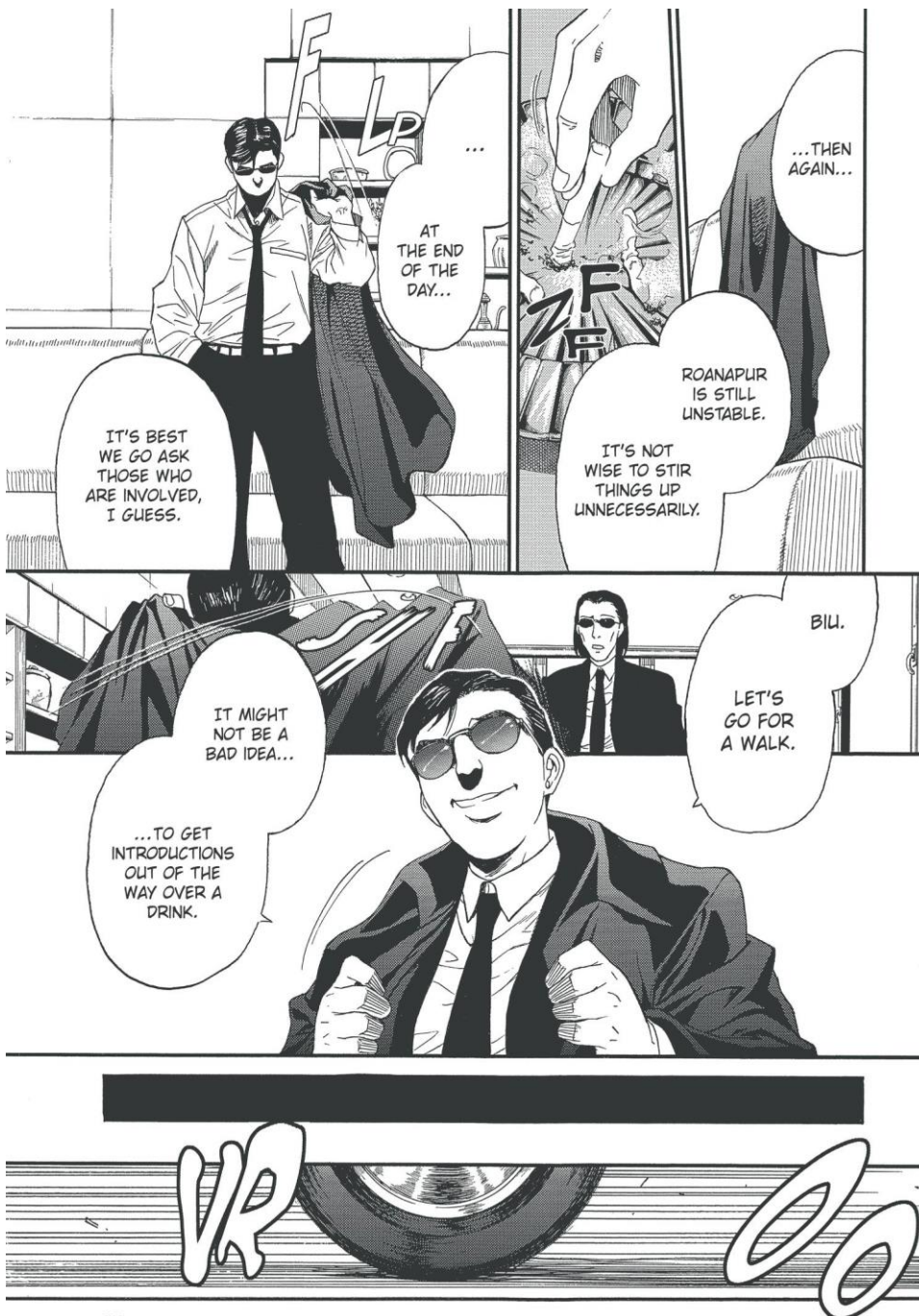
I DON'T
CARE ABOUT
SOME CRAZY
EX-GUERILLA
MAID.

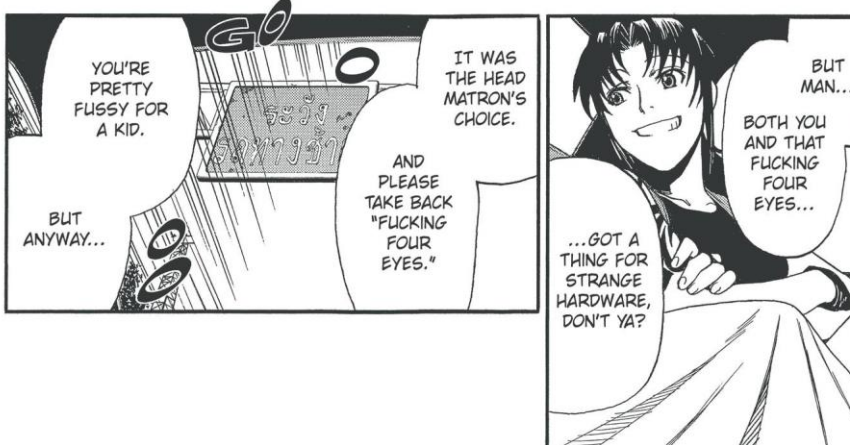
...YOU
SEE,
BILU.

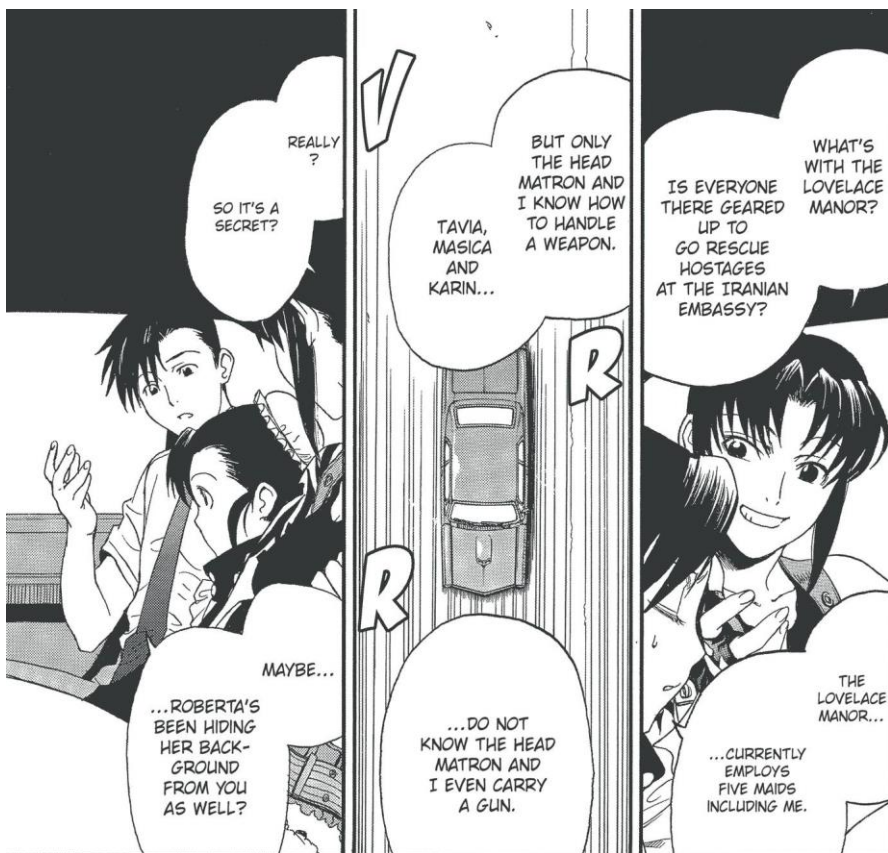
...SOMEONE IS
HIDING OUT HERE
THAT EVEN I
CAN'T IDENTIFY.

BUT
WHAT'S REALLY
BOTHERING ME
LIKE A LEAKY
TOILET IS...











I HAVE DREAMS ABOUT LIVIN' IN THE SUITES HERE, EH, BENNY?

WHAM

I'M JEALOUS. THIS IS THE CLASSIEST HOTEL IN TOWN.

YOU GOT IT.

CHK

ROCK, GRAB HER STUFF FROM THE TRUNK.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER WHERE WE STAND, DUTCH.

...

MY LEGS SEEM TO BE STIFF. WILL YOU GIVE ME A HAND?

UH...

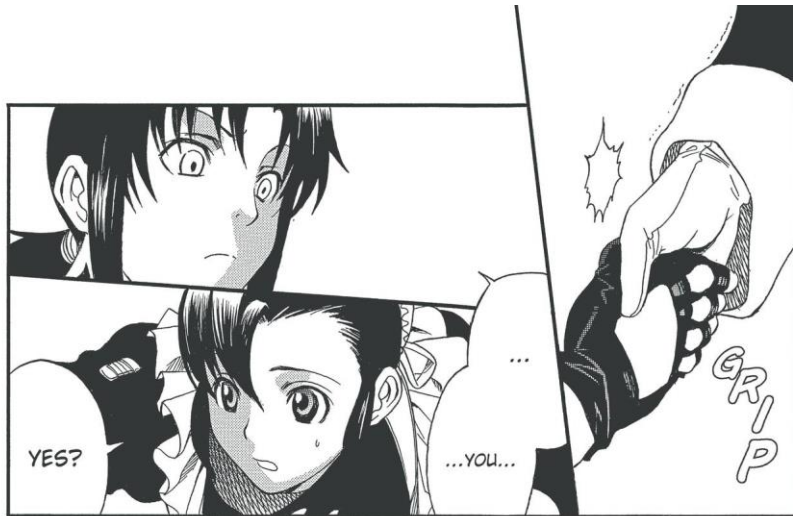
E-EXCUSE ME...?

WHAT AM I, YOUR NANNY?!

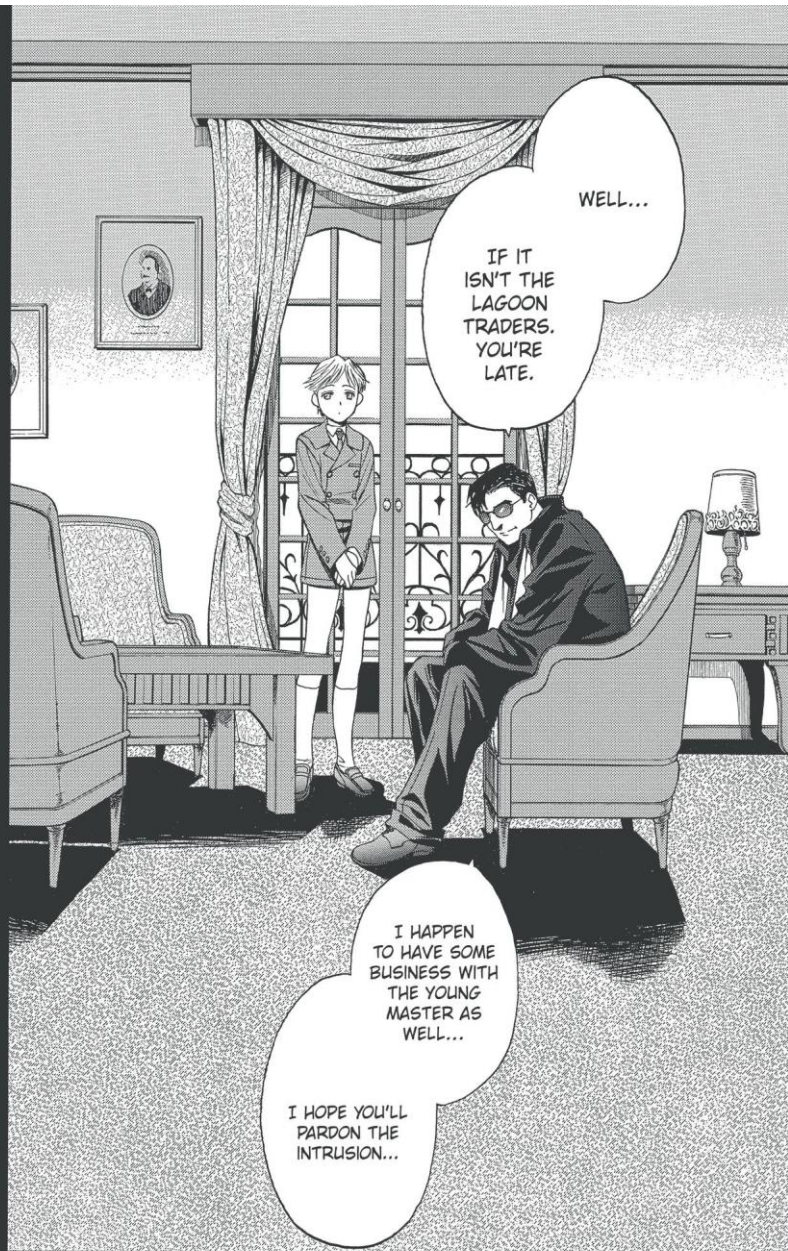
FINE. HERE...!

HUH?

WHAT ?





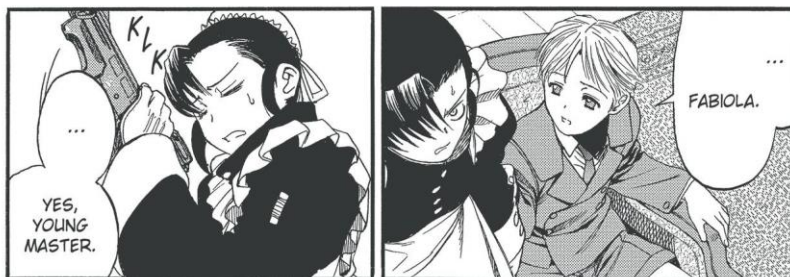


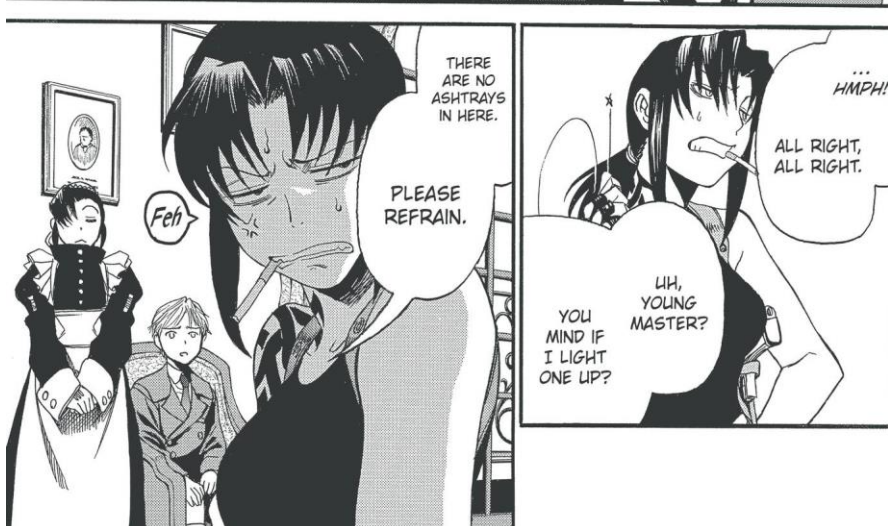
Chapter 49:

El Baile de la Muerte - Part VI













THERE MAY BE THINGS WE CAN SEE THAT YOU COULDN'T.

...I KNOW IT'S HARD, BUT...



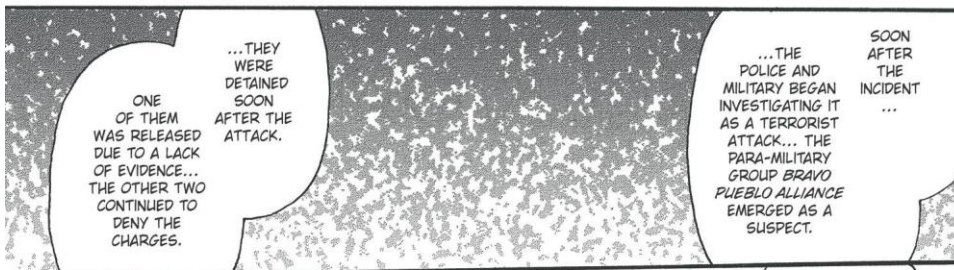
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, MR. ROCK.

...WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN...



GARCIA ...

WILL YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING?

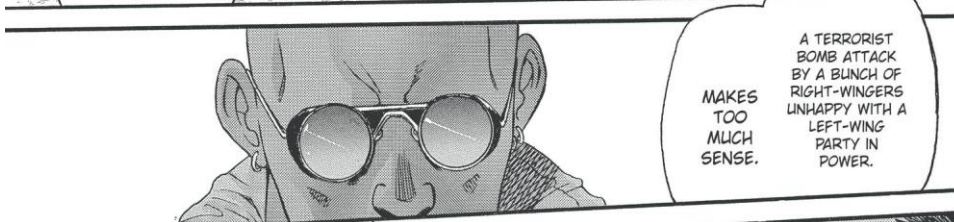


ONE OF THEM WAS RELEASED DUE TO A LACK OF EVIDENCE... THE OTHER TWO CONTINUED TO DENY THE CHARGES.

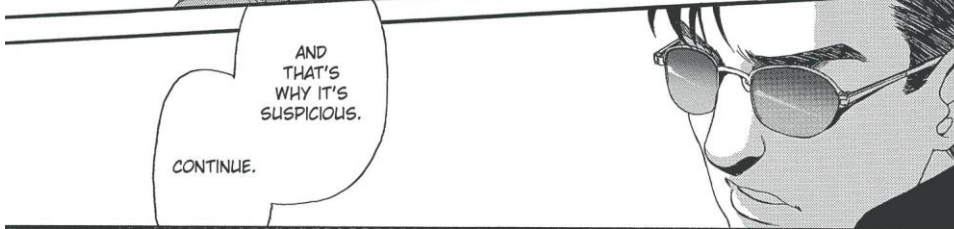
...THEY WERE DETAINED SOON AFTER THE ATTACK.

...THE POLICE AND MILITARY BEGAN INVESTIGATING IT AS A TERRORIST ATTACK... THE PARA-MILITARY GROUP BRAVO PUEBLO ALLIANCE EMERGED AS A SUSPECT.

SOON AFTER THE INCIDENT ...



A TERRORIST BOMB ATTACK BY A BUNCH OF RIGHT-WINGERS UNHAPPY WITH A LEFT-WING PARTY IN POWER. MAKES TOO MUCH SENSE.



AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SUSPICIOUS.

CONTINUE.





*DGIM - DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE INTELIGENCIA MILITAR;
THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE OF VENEZUELA



AND ON THE DAY
OF THE BOMBING,
THEY WERE IN
CHARGE OF
SECURITY FOR
THE STAGE.

...LEFT THE
INTELLIGENCE
BUREAU TWO
MONTHS BEFORE
THE BOMBING,
AS IF IT WERE
PREARRANGED.

THESE
SIX
MEN...



...NO.

YOU GOT
NOTHING
TO WORRY
ABOUT, KID.

JUST STAY HOME
PLUCKING YOUR
NOSE HAIRS AND
SHE'LL PUT 'EM
ALL AWAY AND
COME RIGHT
BACK.



FUCK,
IS THAT
IT?

YOU GUYS
ARE SCARED
OF THESE
SMALL-
TIMERS?



YES,
YOUNG
MASTER.

BUT THE
STORY
DOESN'T END
THERE.
FABIOLA?

I WISH IT
WERE AS
EASY AS
YOU SAY.



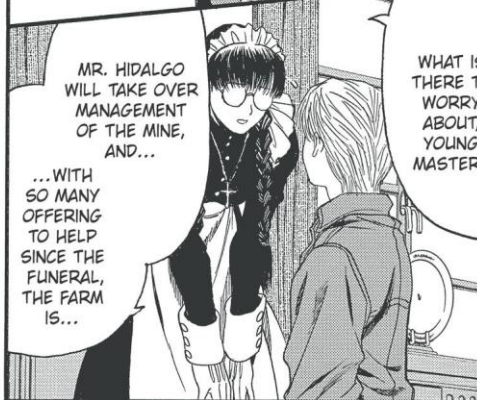
IT WAS
TAKEN SIX
MONTHS
BEFORE THE
BOMBING AT
THE BOLIVAR
GRANDE IN
CENTRAL
CARACAS.

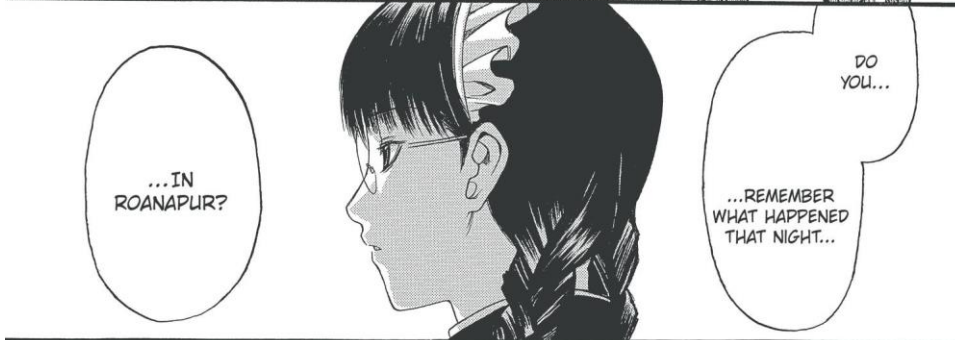
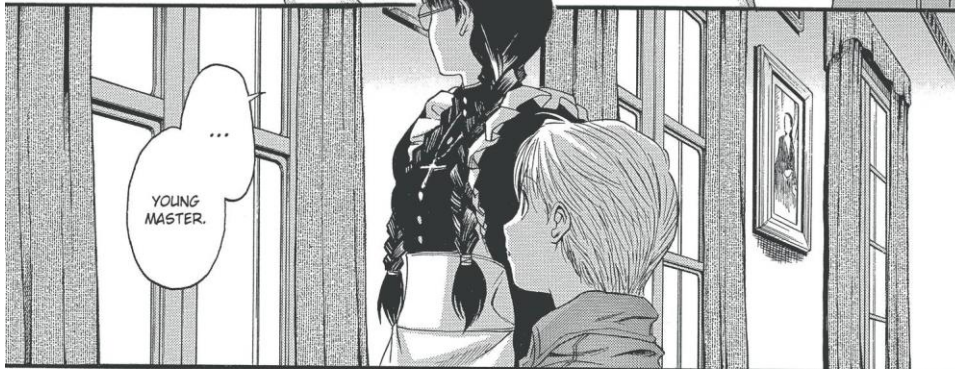
COINCIDENTALLY,
IT WAS TAKEN
BY A MILITARY
POLICE OFFICER
INVESTIGATING
A SEPARATE
CORRUPTION
CASE.

IT IS A
PHOTO I
RECEIVED
FROM THE
GENERAL IN
QUESTION.

PLEASE TAKE
A LOOK AT
THIS.















Chapter 50: El Baile de la Muerte - Part VII











AS I
SAID...

...ONCE
I SEE A
FACE I
NEVER
FORGET
IT.

YOU
WERE AT
THE FOUNDED
CELEBRATION.

DIRECCIÓN
GENERAL DE
INTELIGENCIA
MILITAR.

MAJOR
MARCOS JOSÉ
LUCIENDEZ.







...AND I
WILL BE
PERFECTLY
SATISFIED.

SPILL YOUR
GUTS TO ME
RIGHT NOW...

MAJOR.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I
NEED TO
KNOW.



THAT
NOTIFICATION
CAME QUICKLY.

I
REQUESTED
HE NOTIFY
ME ONCE HE
LOCATED THE
MEN IN THE
PHOTO.

I DIDN'T
TELL THE
OFFICER...

...ABOUT
ROBERTA'S
DISAPPEARANCE.



JOSÉ
LUCIENDEZ,
THE MAN
ON THE
FAR
RIGHT.
HIS BODY WAS
FOUND IN A
RIVER ON THE
OUTSKIRTS OF
CARABOSO.

HE
WAS...

...FOUND
WITH SEVERE
WOUNDS
BELOW HIS
KNEES.



...AND
HUNTED
THEM
DOWN.

SHE
IDENTIFIED
THE MEN
OF THE
INTELLIGENCE
BUREAU
FROM A
SINGLE
PHOTO...

LIKE THE
BLOODHOUND
SHE TRULY IS.



HE WAS
TORTURED,
KIDDO.

THE KIND
OF TORTURE
EVEN THE
GESTAPO
WOULD RUN
AWAY FROM
BARE-
FOOTED.



SHE IS A
MEMBER OF
MY FAMILY.

SHE IS
NOT A
"BLOOD-
HOUND."



REFRAIN
FROM USING
SUCH WORDS
FROM NOW
ON.

PLEASE...

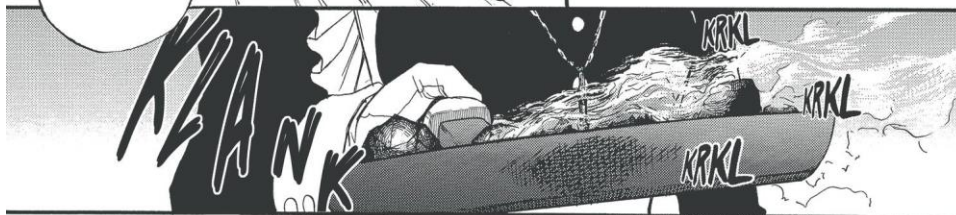


LET'S GET
BACK TO
THE TOPIC
AT HAND.

WE STILL
HAVEN'T
GOTTEN OUR
MAID ACROSS
THE OCEAN
YET.

...
MY
APOLOGIES,
SEÑOR
GARCIA.









A BODY
WAS FOUND
AT THE SCENE
OF A FIRE AT
A MOTEL
OUTSIDE
CARACAS.

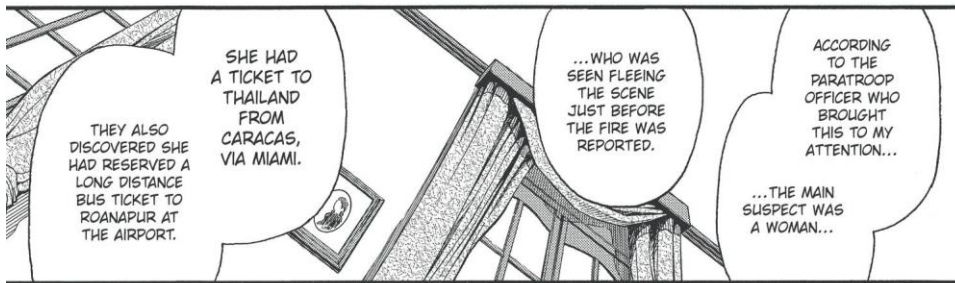
...IT
WAS...

...COLONEL
SIMON
DICKENS.
HE
WAS...

...OF THE
UNITED
STATES
ARMY.

...AN
ACTIVE
OFFICER...

Chapter 51: El Baile de la Muerte - Part VIII





NO,
ONLY THAT
JAPANESE
GENTLEMAN,
TO BE
PRECISE.

THE ONLY
PEOPLE HERE
WE CAN ASK
FOR HELP
ARE YOU.

NO...



WE UNDERSTAND
THIS REQUEST IS
DIFFERENT FROM
YOUR PRIMARY
BUSINESS.

THEREFORE
WE ARE
PREPARED
TO PAY
APPROPRIATE
COMPENSATION.
PLEASE--

PLEASE.

LEND US A
HAND IN THE
SEARCH FOR
OUR FAMILY'S
HEAD
MATRON.



MR.
CHANG.

I
UNDERSTAND
WHY
YOU'RE SO
CONCERNED.

...

I
SEE.



...WITH ENOUGH
TROUBLE IN IT
TO FILL UP ALL
THE SHELVES AT
SEARS.

THIS IS A
GREAT BIG
PANDORA'S
BOX...



BUT...

WHY...?

IT'S NOT
ABOUT THE
MONEY.

WE DON'T
WANT ANY
PART OF
THIS.



EXACTLY.

SHE'S UP
AGAINST THE
UNITED STATES'
UNCONVENTIONAL
WARFARE
FORCES.

WHY?
YOUR
HEAD
MATRON'S
...
...PLANNING
ON TAKING ON
EVERYBODY'S
FRIEND UNCLE
SAM WITH HER
BARE HANDS.

NO...

MAYBE
SOMETHING
EVEN MORE
THAN THAT.

IT'S
ABSOLUTELY
CRAZY. WHO'D
WANT ANY
PART OF THAT
MADNESS?

THAT IS
ALL THE
MORE
REASON...

KNOWING
THAT SHE'S
KILLING
PEOPLE...

...PAINS ME
AS MUCH
AS LOSING
MY FATHER.

...TO
STOP
HER.



SHE IS...
...FAMILY TO ME.

...WHO CAN SAVE HER IS ME.
...

AND THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS WORLD...



SHE SAID WE WOULD ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!

SHE...

SHE ALSO TOLD ME... SHE WOULD BE WITH ME FOREVER...



YOU CAME HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD TO START BAWLING?

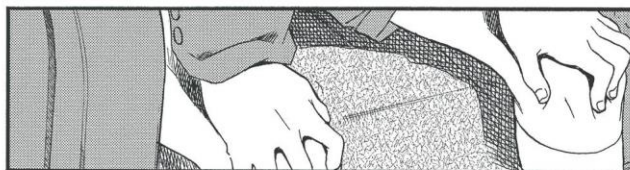
AW, CUT IT OUT.

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?

GO AHEAD, TRY IT. IT MIGHT BE WORTH A SHOT.

FINE THEN, CRY ME A RIVER.

MAYBE A HERO WILL POP OUT OF A MARVEL COMIC.



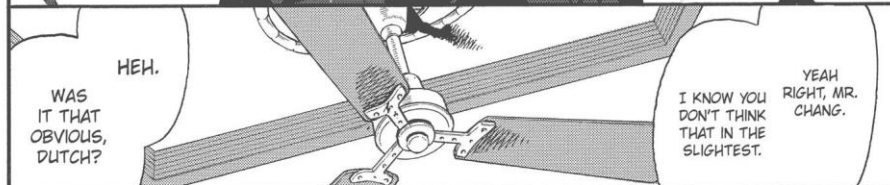




...LEAVE THIS
MATTER TO US
AND RETURN TO
THEIR MANSION
IN VENEZUELA.

THIS
WHOLE
THING IS
BREAKING
MY HEART.

IF I HAD MY
WAY, I'D LOVE
TO SEE THEM...



HEH.

WAS
IT THAT
OBVIOUS,
DUTCH?

YEAH
RIGHT, MR.
CHANG.
I KNOW YOU
DON'T THINK
THAT IN THE
SLIGHTEST.



THAT
MAID IS
SOMETHING
ELSE.

EVERYBODY
KNOWS FRY-FACE
MOBILIZED HER
COMMANDOS THE
LAST TIME SHE
WAS HERE.



SO
EVERYONE
IN TOWN IS
AWFULLY
NERVOUS.

IT'S BETTER
TO PLUCK
THE SEED
OF THEIR
WORRIES
EARLY.



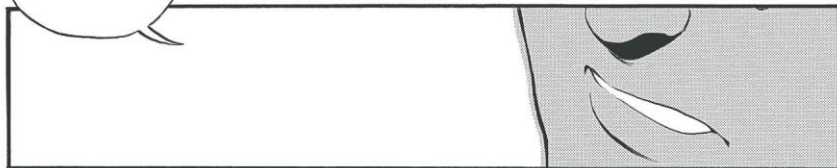
WELL
...

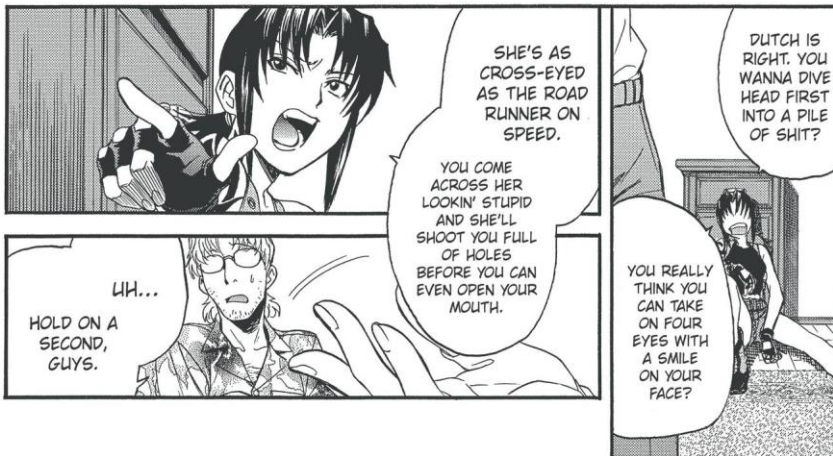
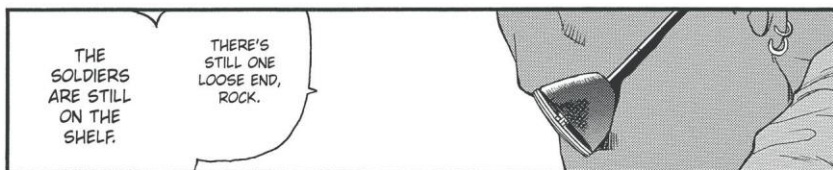
THE
COLOMBIANS,
LIKE SEÑOR
GARCIA, ARE
AFTER THE
MAID.

IT'S
OBVIOUS
THEY'LL
CLASH WITH
THIS LITTLE
BOY
SOONER
OR LATER.

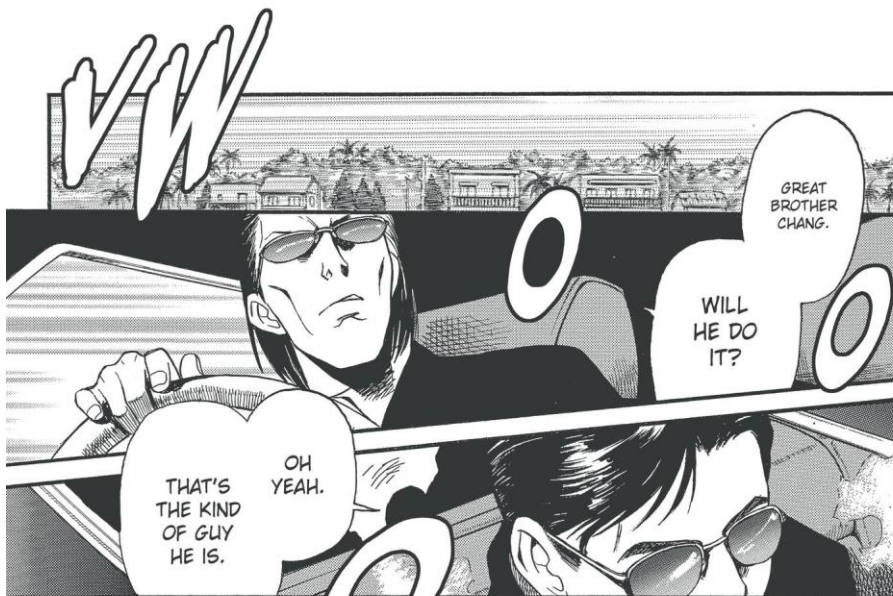
THAT'S NOT
GOOD FOR
THIS TOWN
OR FOR US.













IN
ANY
CASE...

OUR
GHOSTS
FINALLY
HAVE A
NAME.

FIRST
WE DO
A LITTLE
INVESTIGATING
OF THE YOUNG
MASTER'S NEW
SAFEHOUSE.

ALL WE
HAVE TO
DO IS PLAY
OUR PART.

...NO,
THAT'S...

...CONTACT
?

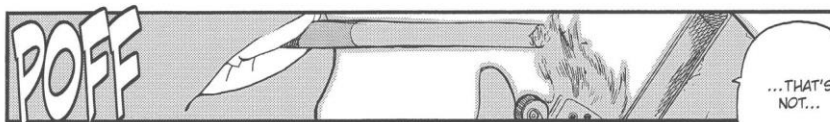
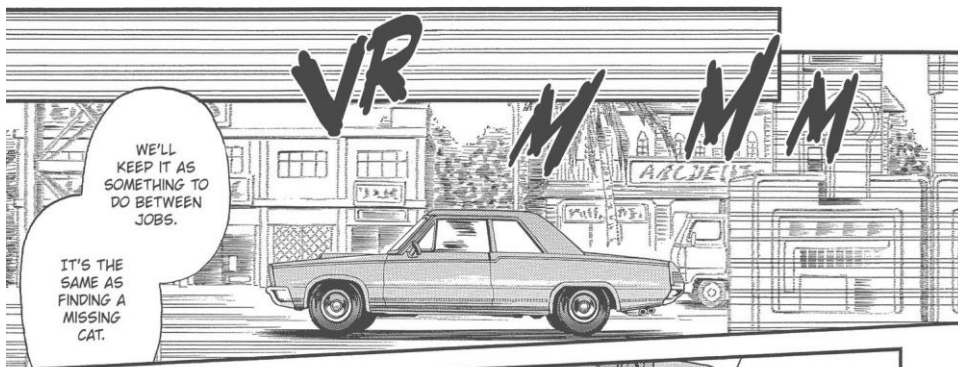
WHO DO
WE...

...NOT
HIM...

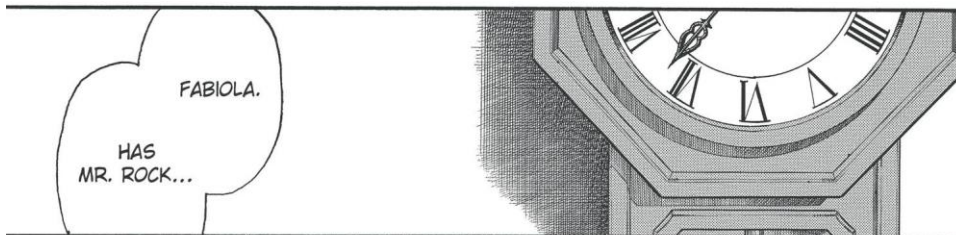
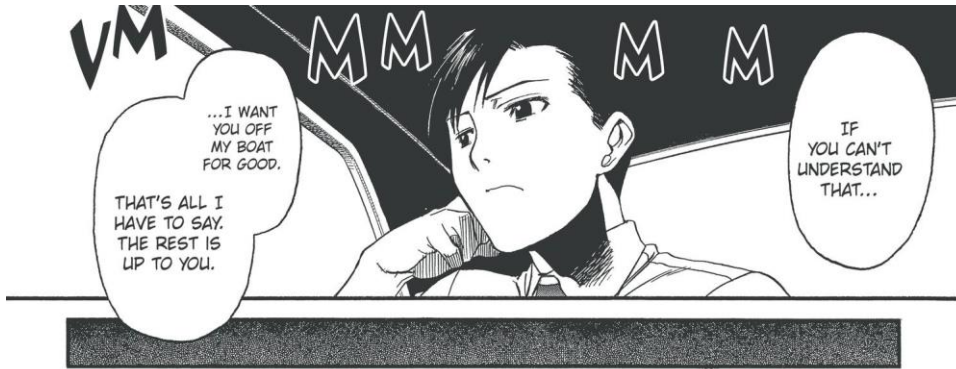
WE HAVE TO
MOVE THE
PIECES ON
THE BOARD
CAREFULLY.

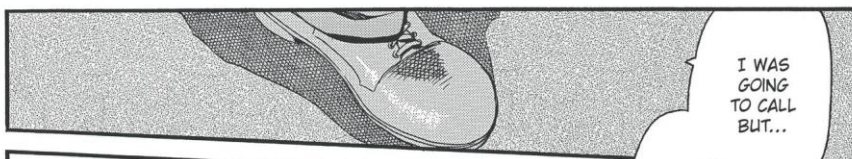
THE SMART
THING TO DO
IS SEND
SOLDIERS
OUT AGAINST
SOLDIERS.

THOSE
GHOSTS
ARE SKILLED
SOLDIERS.









I WAS
GOING
TO CALL
BUT...



...IT'S
ALMOST
NOON AND I
THOUGHT IT'D
BE QUICKER
IF I JUST
CAME OVER.



SO,
HERE WE
ARE!

...IS
SOMETHING
WRONG?



Chapter 52: El Baile de la Muerte - Part IX



LARKIN.

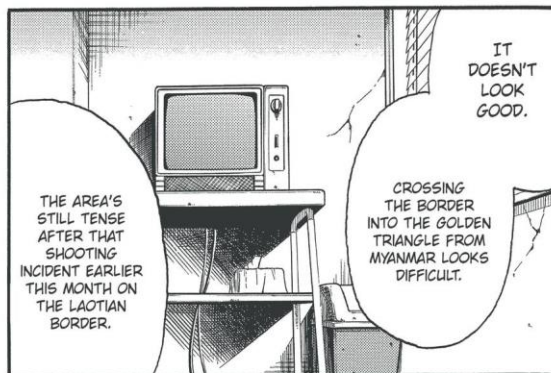
I GET
IT NOW.
YOU'RE...

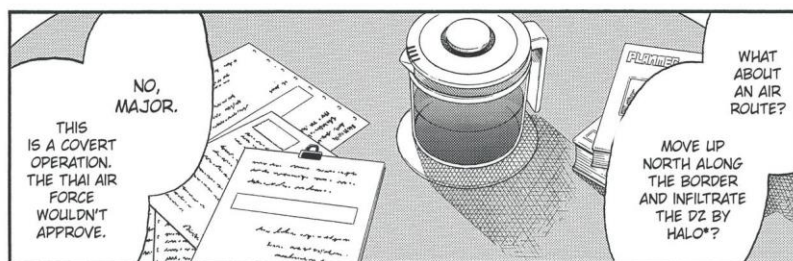
...USING
WAR AS AN
EXCUSE TO
REVEL IN YOUR
CRIMES.

YOU'RE
BENEATH
CONTEMPT,
NOTHING BUT
A PETTY
LITTLE THUG.



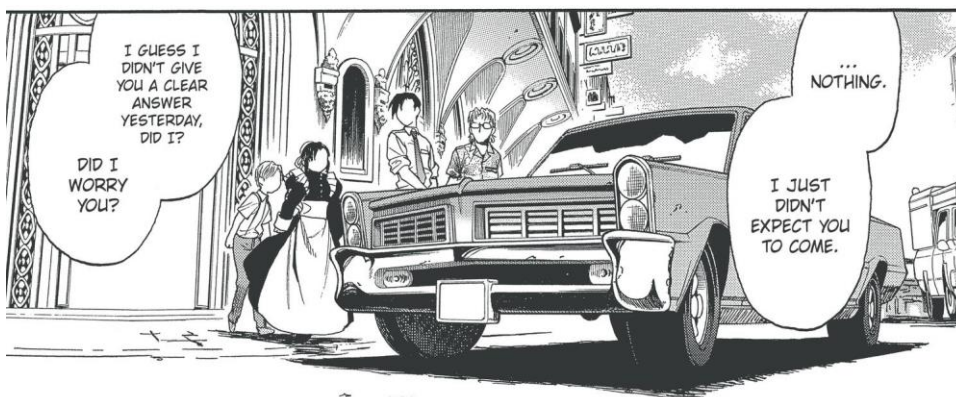
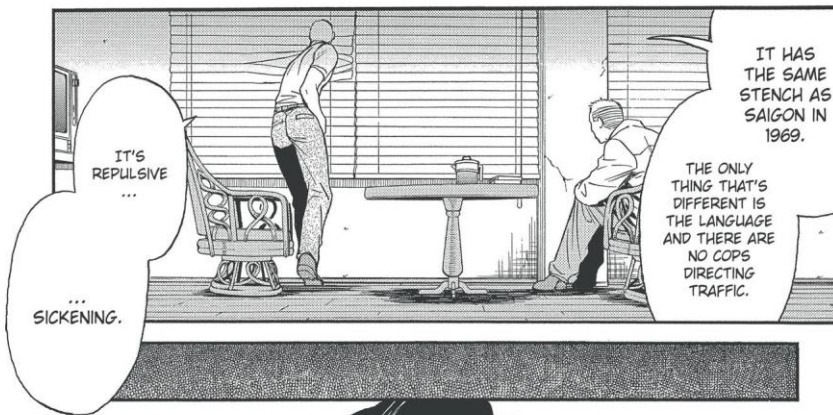


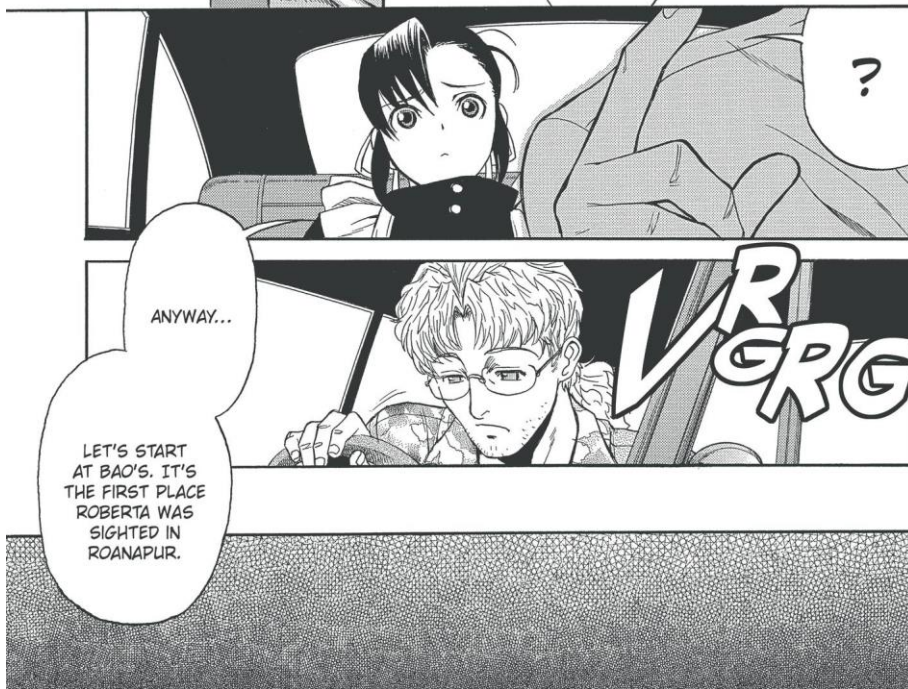
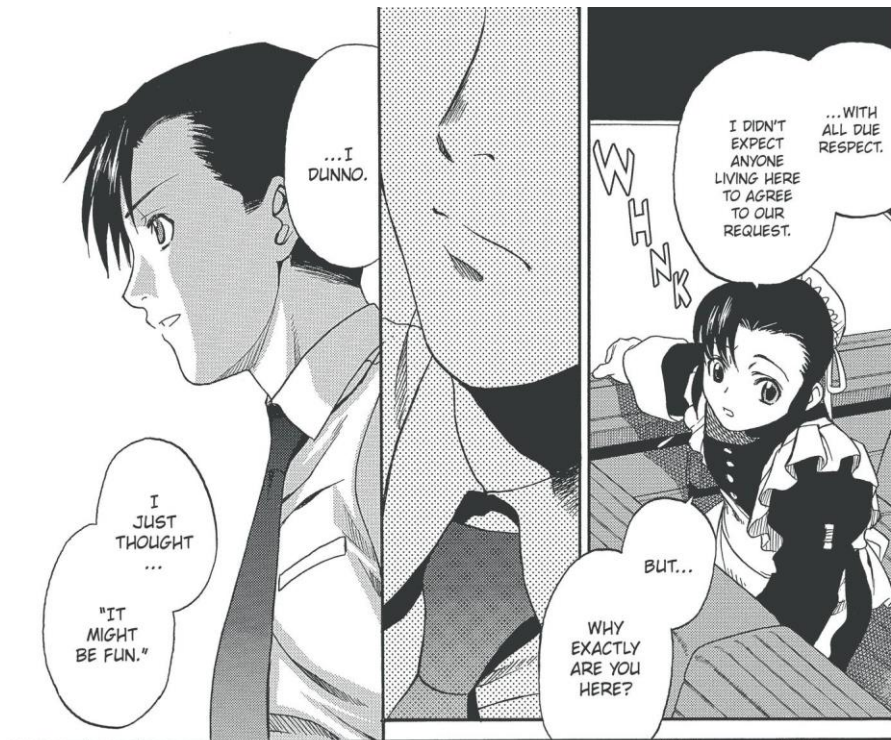


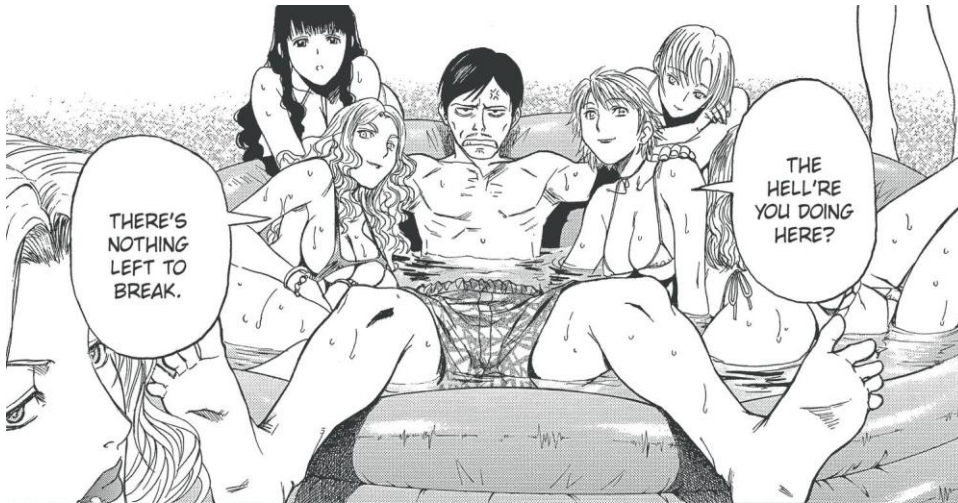


*HALO: HIGH ALTITUDE LOW OPENING--A DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS PARACHUTING TECHNIQUE

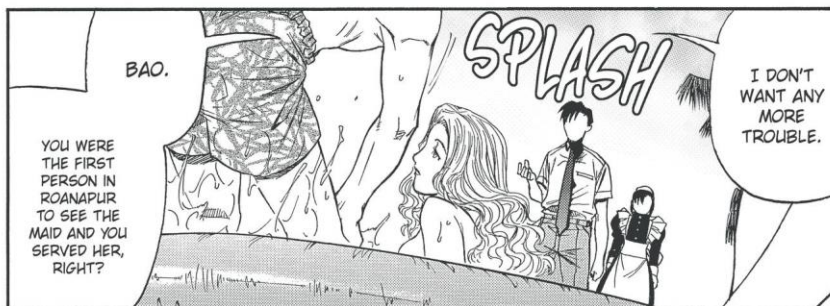
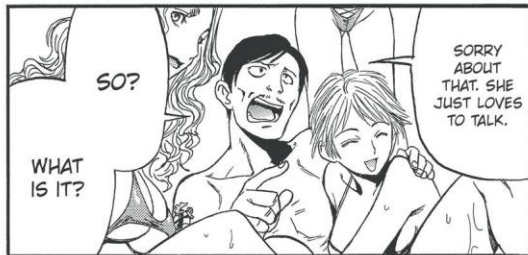










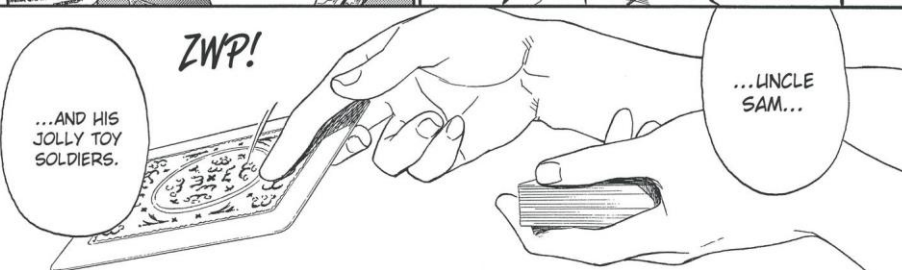
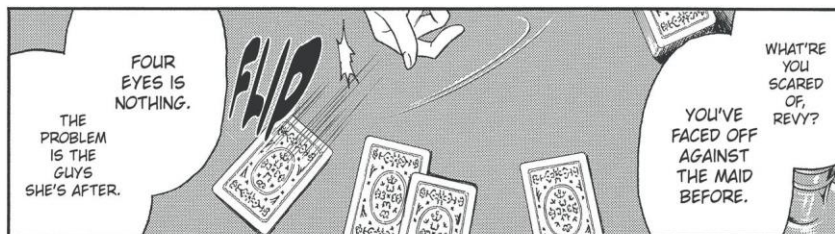
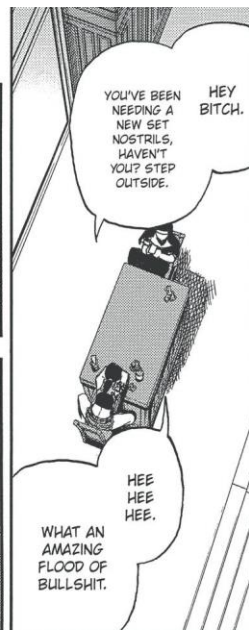


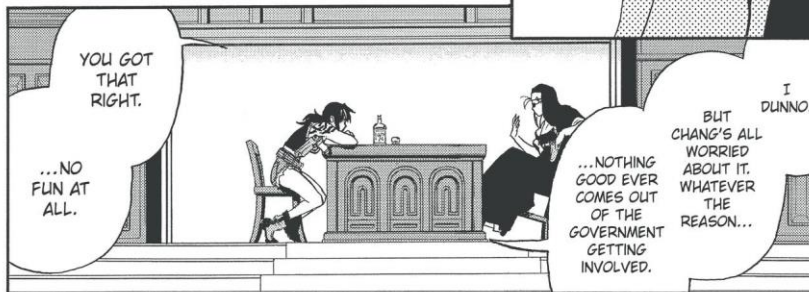


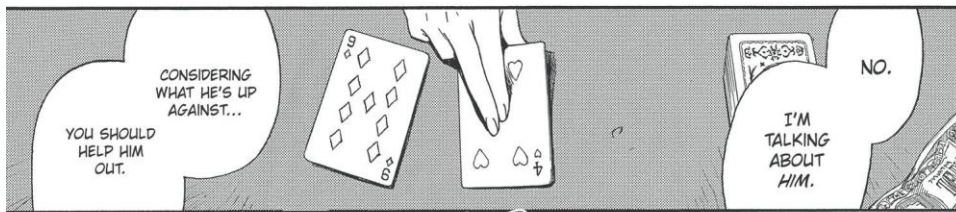








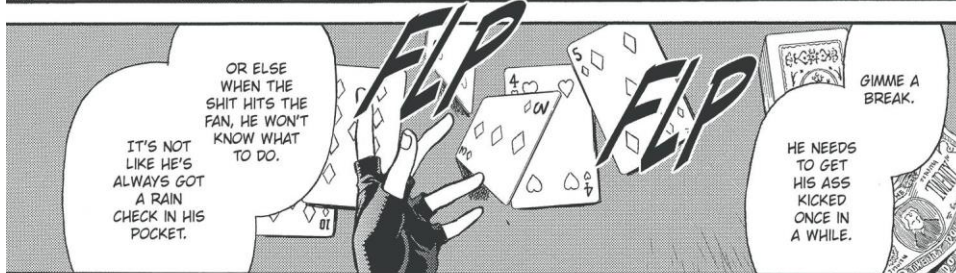




CONSIDERING
WHAT HE'S UP
AGAINST...
YOU SHOULD
HELP HIM
OUT.

NO.

I'M
TALKING
ABOUT
HIM.



IT'S NOT
LIKE HE'S
ALWAYS GOT
A RAIN
CHECK IN HIS
POCKET.

OR ELSE
WHEN THE
SHIT HITS THE
FAN, HE WON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

GIMME A
BREAK.

HE NEEDS
TO GET
HIS ASS
KICKED
ONCE IN
A WHILE.



HE
STEPS
INTO A
PILE OF
SHIT AND
SLIPS...

...IT'S
NOT
GONNA
BE...

CALL
IT.

CONSIDER
IT AN
IMPORTANT
LESSON IN
CRISIS
MANAGEMENT.

YOU
KNOW,
REVVY...

IF HE'S GOING
UP AGAINST
THE STARS
AND STRIPES
HE'S REALLY
IN TROUBLE.

... "LOOK AT
HIS STUPID
ASS, HA HA
HA."

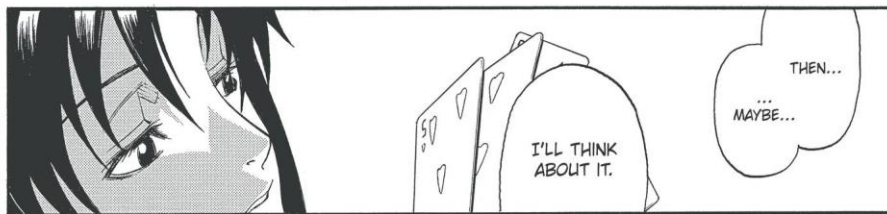


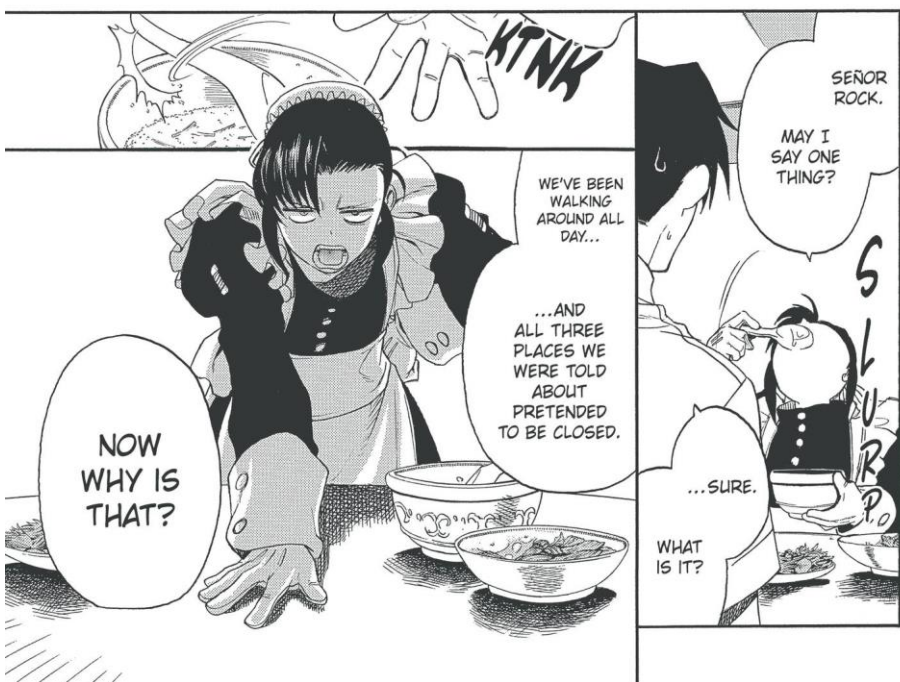
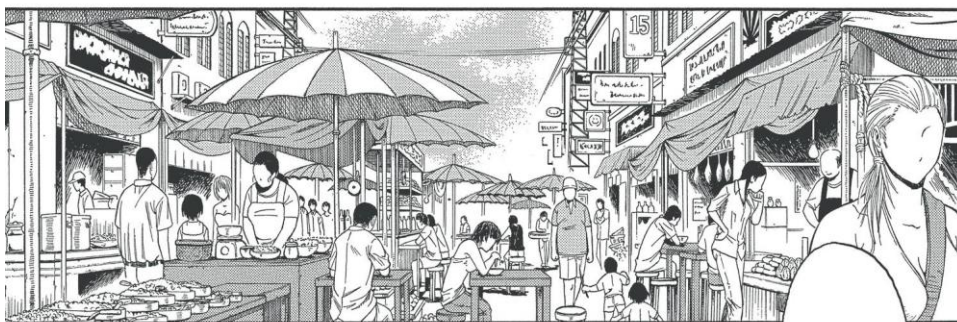
I'M PRETTY
SURE MR.
CHANG
ASKED HIM
TO EXPECT
THAT.

IF SPARKS
ARE GONNA
FLY, AT LEAST
LET HIM KNOW
WHICH WAY
THE WIND'S
BLOWING.

CALL
IT.

I
KNOW.
SHUT
UP.







WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? WE DON'T GET SO UPSET. SHOW UP WITH A LITTLE GIRL DRESSED LIKE A MAID...



...AND A WELL-BRED BOY THEY'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE...

WHO'D WANNA GET INVOLVED WITH SUCH SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS? THIS JUST ISN'T GONNA WORK...

...WITHOUT SOMEBODY LIKE DUTCH OR REVVY ALONG WITH US.



UM... THAT'S BECAUSE ...

THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU PROMISED US!

NOT AT ALL!!



YOU DIDN'T ASK.

...I WISH YOU'D TOLD ME THAT SOONER.



YOU SAW HOW THINGS WENT WITH MR. ROCK. IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT WE CAN'T DO THIS ON OUR OWN.

...FABIOLA.

ANYWAY. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STRIKE OUT LIKE THIS. I'LL CONTINUE THE SEARCH ON MY OWN IF I HAVE TO-



THIS TOWN DOESN'T INTIMIDATE YOU AT ALL, DOES IT? WHERE DOES THAT NERVE COME FROM?

YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, YOUNG MASTER, BUT-



IT'S A NICKNAME.

BARRIO?

IT'S AN IMPOVERISHED AREA IN THE SUBURBS OF CARACAS.



SHE'S...

FROM THE BARRIO.



...MY HOME IS THE SAME. IT'S FULL OF IDIOTS AND SCUM. I AM USED TO THIS KIND OF TREATMENT.

MUNCH MUNCH



...WE DECIDED TO INCREASE THE HELP. THAT IS HOW SHE JOINED MY FAMILY.

THE MINE IS FINALLY BECOMING FINANCIALLY STABLE, SO...

A FARMER WHO WORKS ON OUR PLANTATION...

...IS A DISTANT RELATIVE OF HERS.



I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO TO SCHOOL OR FIND A JOB IF I HAD STAYED IN THE BARRIO.

SO IF I WENT TO WORK, THERE'D BE LESS BURDEN ON MY FAMILY.

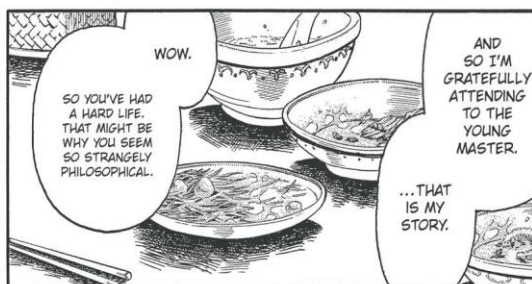
WELL...

NOT ONLY IS MY FAMILY DIRT POOR, THERE'RE 11 OF US.



...THOSE FANCY KICKS AND HOW TO HANDLE A GUN?

SO IS THE BARRIO WHERE YOU LEARNED...



WOW.

SO YOU'VE HAD A HARD LIFE. THAT MIGHT BE WHY YOU SEEM SO STRANGELY PHILOSOPHICAL...

AND SO I'M GRATEFULLY ATTENDING TO THE YOUNG MASTER.

...THAT IS MY STORY.







NOW...
IT'S NOT
LIKE ME TO
DOLE OUT
ADVICE.

BUT IF
SOMETHING
GOES DOWN
THAT YOU CAN'T
SETTLE THAT
WAY, DON'T
HESITATE TO
PULL THE
TRIGGER.

THIS
TOWN ISN'T
GENEROUS
ENOUGH TO
ALLOW YOU
TO TEST
YOURSELF.

I SEE.

I TOTALLY
ADMIRE YOUR
PRINCIPLES,
BUT...

...ACTUALLY
APPLYING
THEM HERE IN
THIS TOWN IS
A DIFFERENT
STORY.

...

I DON'T
WANT THAT
TO HAPPEN
TO FABIOLA
AND ME.

ROBERTA
COULDN'T
RESIST.

BUT...

ACTING ON
INSTINCT
LIKE THAT
ALLOWS FOR
BRUTALITY.
THAT'S A
BAD THING.

IT'S
EASY TO
MOCK YOUR
UNREALISTIC
VIEWS,
BUT...

TWIST

THAT'S
NOT IT.
I'VE TOLD
YOU THIS
BEFORE.

IN TERMS
OF RIGHT
OR WRONG,
THIS TOWN
IS ALL
WRONG.

UH...

SURE.

LET'S HEAD
BACK AFTER
WE DROP
THEM OFF AT
MR. CHANG'S
BOATHOUSE.

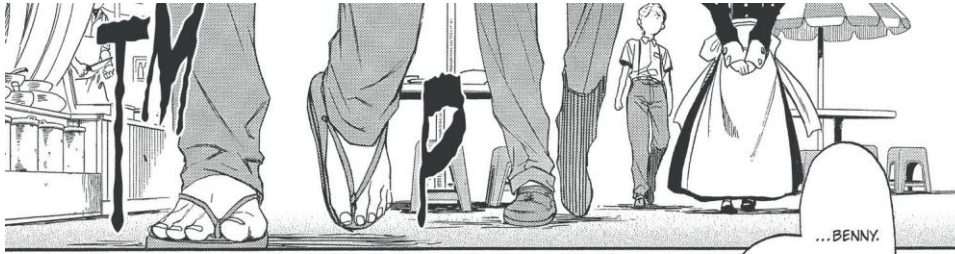
IS THAT
ALL RIGHT
WITH YOU,
ROCK?

KR

DUTCH'LL
BE MAD
IF WE'RE
LATE.

I'M JUST
SAYING THAT
IF THERE'S A
GOAL YOU NEED
TO ACHIEVE,
DEAL WITH IT
APPROPRIATELY.

OKAY.



IT JUST
DOESN'T
FEEL SO
GREAT WHEN
CHILDREN DIE.

OH
YEAH?

I'M
SURPRISED
TO HEAR
THAT COMING
FROM YOU.



HOW MUCH
DO YOU HAVE
TO STEEL YOUR
SOUL TO GET
OVER A
STRANGER'S
DEATH?

...THAT'S WHY
I DON'T INTEND
TO TEST
MYSELF IN THIS
TOWN EITHER.

AND...

THIS IS
THE MOST
WE CAN DO
FOR THEM,
IN A WAY.

CHNK

KCHN



OR GET
TOO DEEPLY
INVOLVED
LIKE YOU,
ROCK.

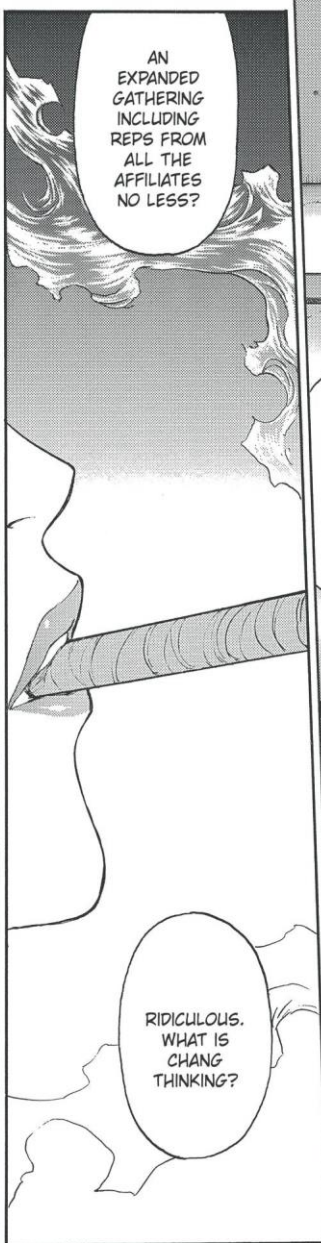


...I HAVE
YET TO
THOROUGHLY
GRASP THE
SITUATION,
BUT...

I
ASSUME
...

...HE HAS
OBTAINED
SOME
DISTURBING
INFOR-
MATION...

...PERTAINING
TO THE MAID
THAT MUST BE
ACTED UPON.



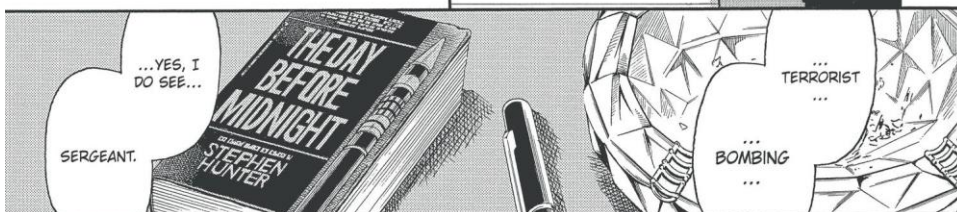
AN
EXPANDED
GATHERING
INCLUDING
REPS FROM
ALL THE
AFFILIATES
NO LESS?

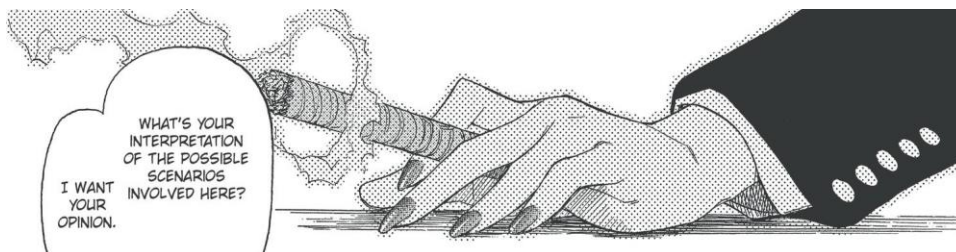
RIDICULOUS.
WHAT IS
CHANG
THINKING?



...A
NETWORK
MEETING?

AT THIS
TIME OF
YEAR?





WHAT'S YOUR
INTERPRETATION
OF THE POSSIBLE
SCENARIOS
INVOLVED HERE?
I WANT
YOUR
OPINION.



THERE IS A
STRONG
POSSIBILITY IT
WAS A COVERT
OPERATION BY A
THIRD PARTY
POLITICAL
ORGANIZATION.

LOCAL ARMED
GROUPS HAD
NO MOTIVE.
GOVERNMENTAL
AGENCIES
WOULD NOT
HAVE
CONCEALED
THEM HERE.
IN MY
PERSONAL
OPINION...



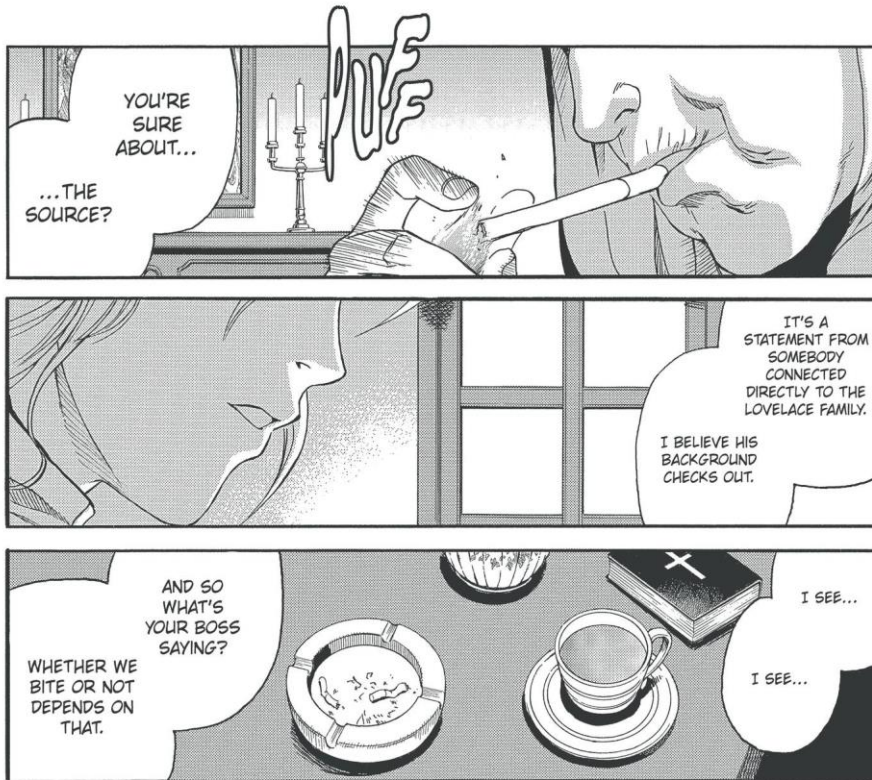
IF THE
SCENARIO
YOU ENVISION
IS IN FACT
TRUE...

THE
INSTRUCTORS
AT THE RYAZAN
AIRBORNE
ACADEMY WOULD
BE PROUD.
WELL
DONE,
SERGEANT.

...THAT'S
A GOOD
ENOUGH
REASON FOR
CHANG TO BE
FRIGHTENED.

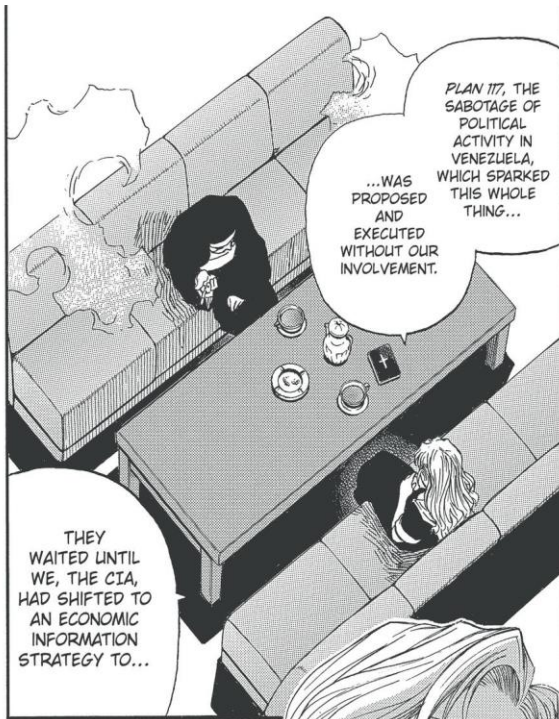
THIS
SHOULD BE
FUN, EH,
SERGEANT?

VERY
INTERESTING.



Chapter 53: El Baile de la Muerte - Part X





THEY
WAITED UNTIL
WE, THE CIA,
HAD SHIFTED TO
AN ECONOMIC
INFORMATION
STRATEGY TO...

...WAS
PROPOSED
AND
EXECUTED
WITHOUT OUR
INVOLVEMENT.

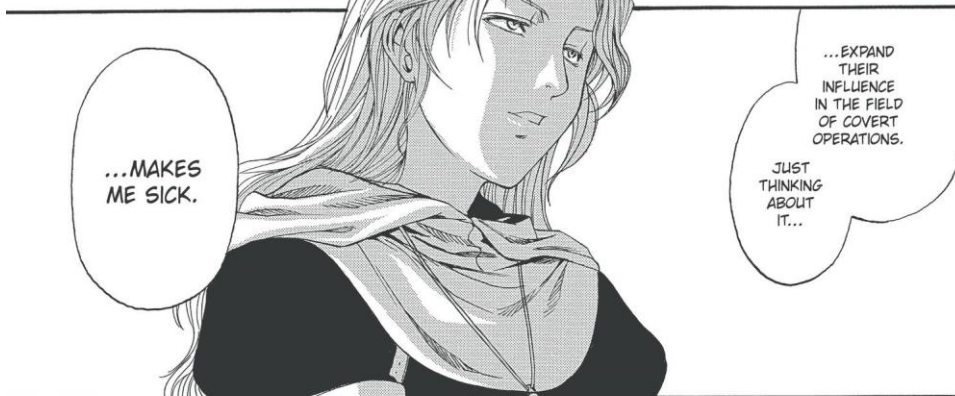
PLAN 177, THE
SABOTAGE OF
POLITICAL
ACTIVITY IN
VENEZUELA,
WHICH SPARKED
THIS WHOLE
THING...



THE BIGGER
YOU ARE,
THE MORE
PROBLEMS
YOU HAVE.

SO IT'S A
TURF WAR
BETWEEN THE
NSA AND
THE CIA.

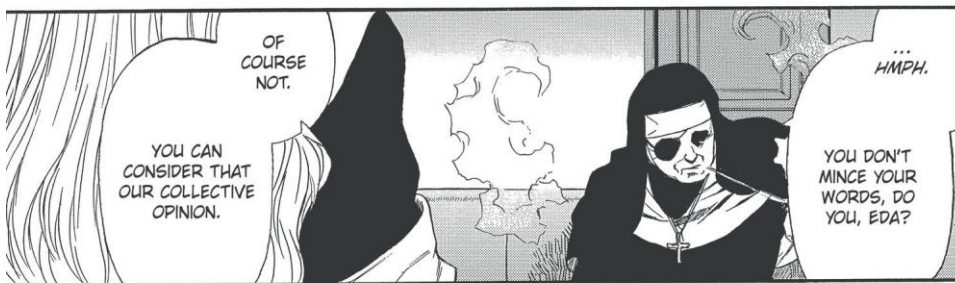
HMPH.



...MAKES
ME SICK.

JUST
THINKING
ABOUT
IT...

...EXPAND
THEIR
INFLUENCE
IN THE FIELD
OF COVERT
OPERATIONS.



YOU CAN
CONSIDER THAT
OUR COLLECTIVE
OPINION.

OF
COURSE
NOT.

YOU DON'T
MINCE YOUR
WORDS, DO
YOU, EDA?

...
HMPH.



MY SUPERIOR
WILL CONTACT
YOU SHORTLY
REGARDING
YOUR FEES.

THANK YOU,
SISTER
YOLANDA.

MY POSITION
HERE AT THE
CHURCH
ALLOWS ME TO
WORK WITH
EASE.

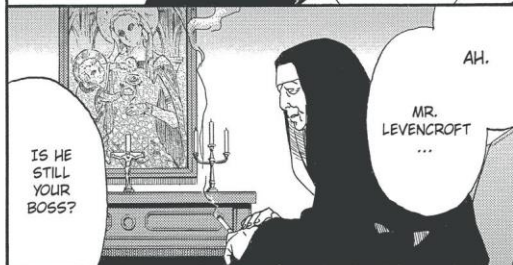


OH
WELL.

I'LL KEEP AN
EYE OUT FOR
ANY INFO
REGARDING THE
NSA CHIEF HERE
IN THE CITY.

THE CIA'S
SOMETHING
OF A
REGULAR
CUSTOMER.

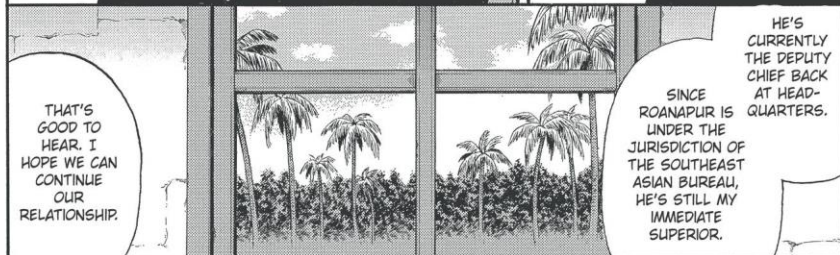
IT'D BE GREAT
FOR US IF WE
CAN CONTINUE
SHARING
INFORMATION.



AH.

MR.
LEVENCROFT
...

IS HE
STILL
YOUR
BOSS?



THAT'S
GOOD TO
HEAR. I
HOPE WE CAN
CONTINUE
OUR
RELATIONSHIP.

HE'S
CURRENTLY
THE DEPUTY
CHIEF BACK
AT HEAD-
QUARTERS.

SINCE
ROANAPUR IS
UNDER THE
JURISDICTION OF
THE SOUTHEAST
ASIAN BUREAU,
HE'S STILL MY
IMMEDIATE
SUPERIOR.



A RECORDING
OR COPY OF
THE MINUTES
SHOULD DO.

I WOULD
LIKE THAT.

I'LL TAKE
CARE OF IT
SO THERE
WON'T BE
ANY LEAKS.

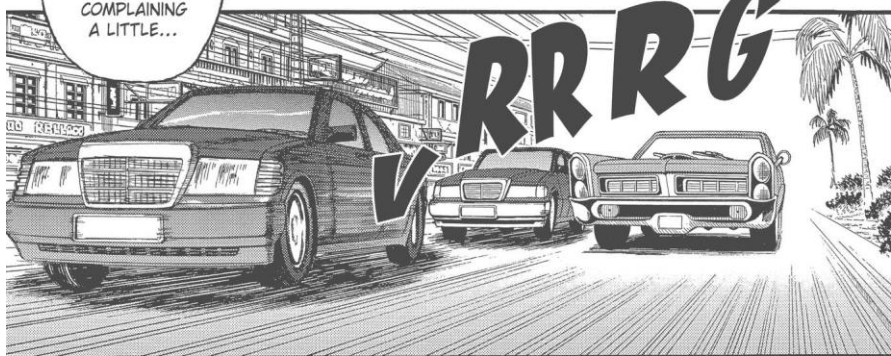
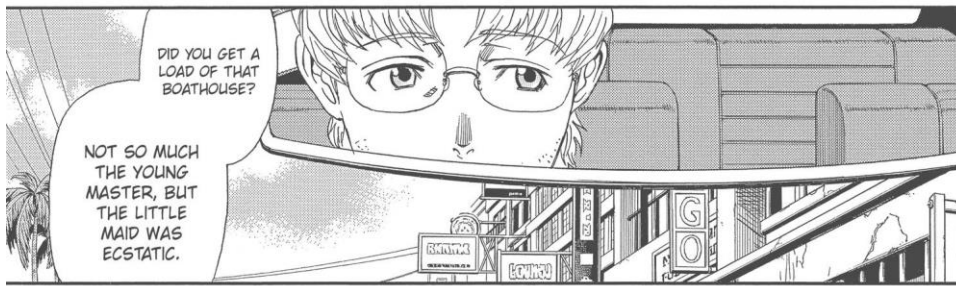


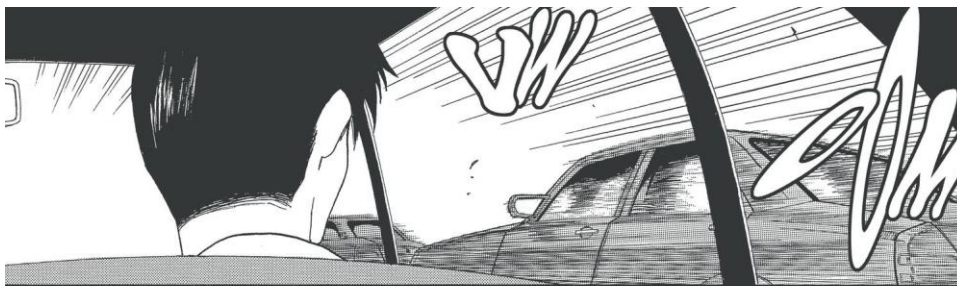
LET'S
GET BACK
TO THE
SUBJECT.

THE TRIAD'S
TAKING THE
LEAD IN THIS
MATTER.

THEY'RE
PROBABLY
HOLDING A
MEETING AT THE
GOLDEN SWINGIN
NIGHT CLUB RIGHT
ABOUT NOW. DO
YOU WANT A LIST
OF WHO'S
ATTENDING?







TO THE
NETWORK
MEETING...

...ABOUT
THAT *THING*
WE'RE ALSO
INVOLVED
WITH.

HAVEN'T
YOU
HEARD?



...THAT
THE MAFIA?

WHERE ARE
THEY ALL
GOING?

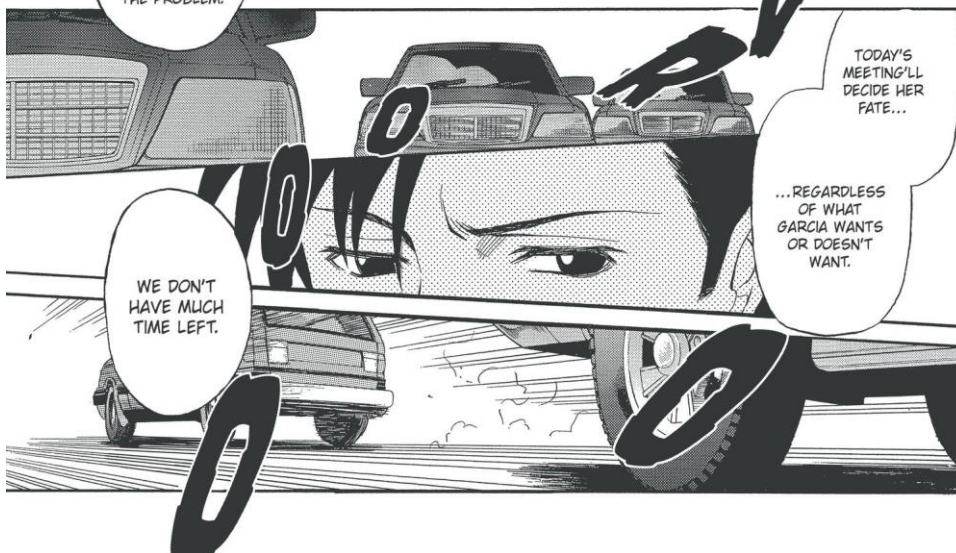


JUST LIKE MR.
CHANG SAID,
THE PROBLEM
DOESN'T END
WITH HER.

THE MAID, THE
PEOPLE SHE'S
UP AGAINST, HER
OBJECTIVE,
METHODS, IT'S
ALL PART OF
THE PROBLEM.

GOES TO
SHOW HOW
NERVOUS
THEY ARE.

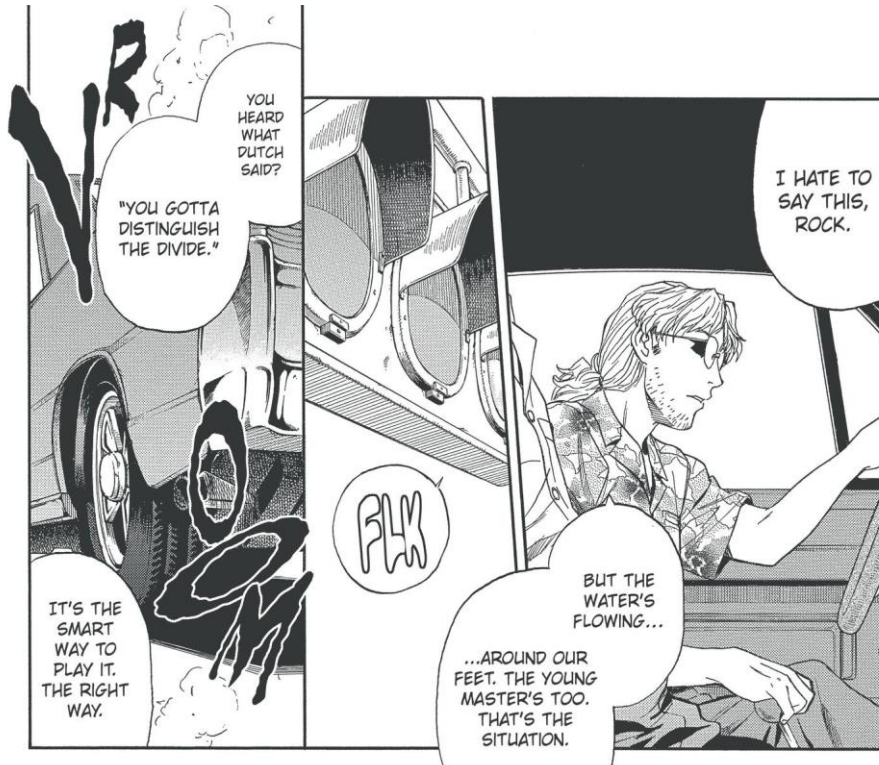
NETWORK
MEETING?
BUT
THERE'S
SO MANY
OF THEM-



TODAY'S
MEETING'LL
DECIDE HER
FATE...

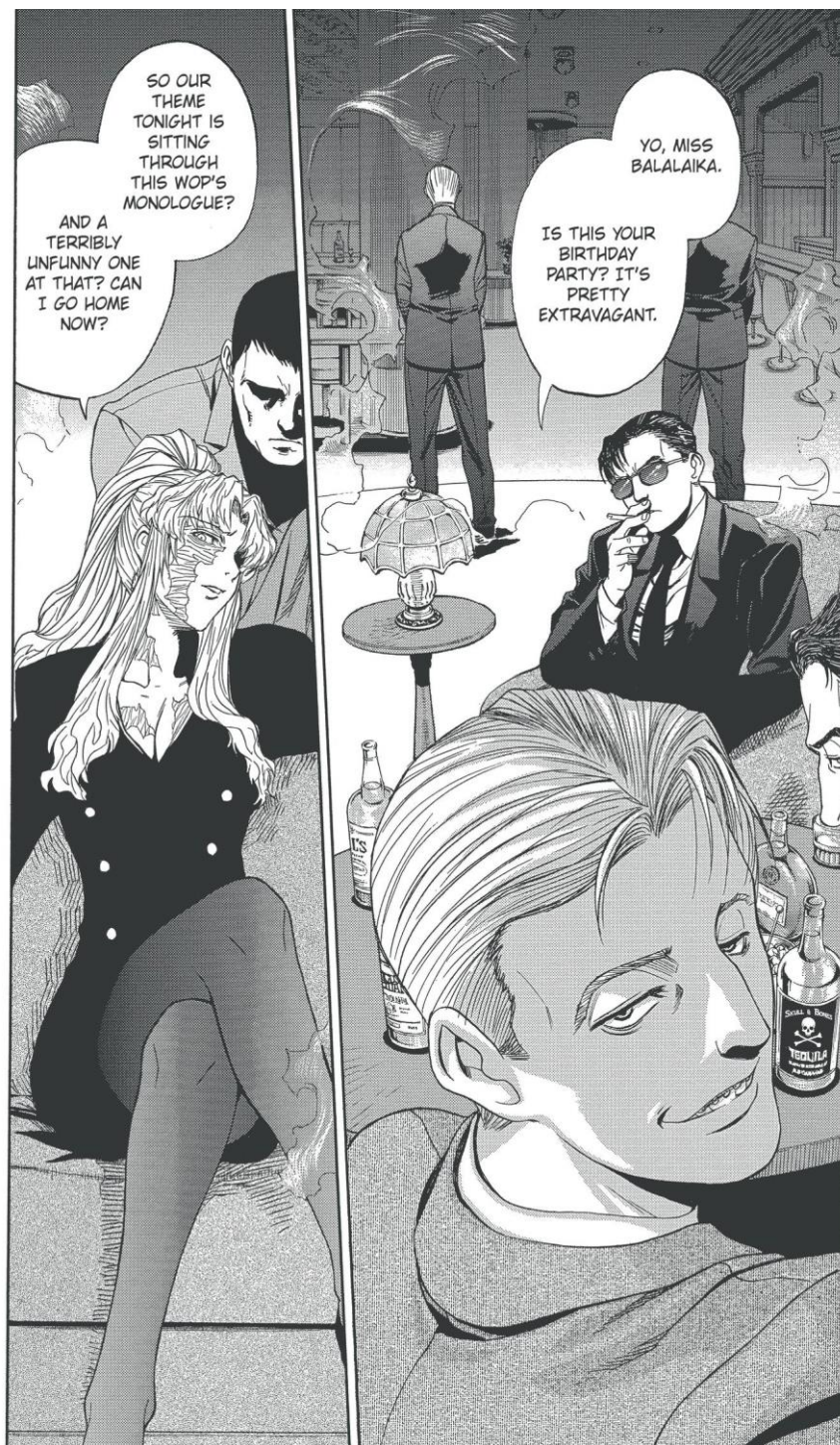
...REGARDLESS
OF WHAT
GARCIA WANTS
OR DOESN'T
WANT.

WE DON'T
HAVE MUCH
TIME LEFT.









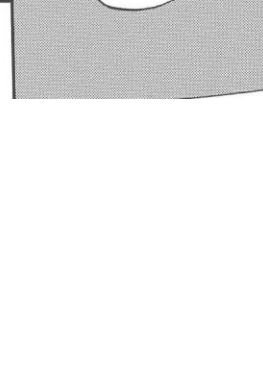
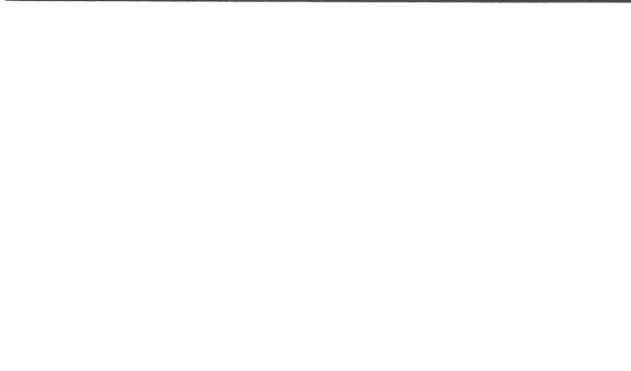
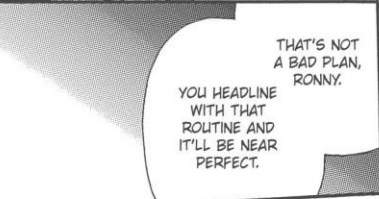
SO OUR
THEME
TONIGHT IS
SITTING
THROUGH
THIS WOP'S
MONOLOGUE?

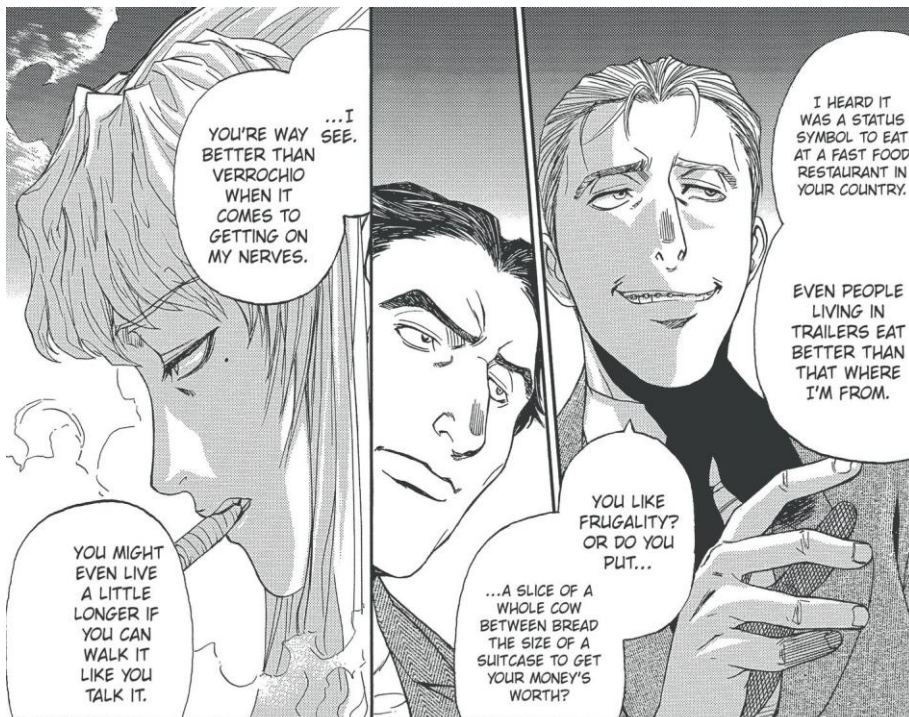
AND A
TERRIBLY
UNFUNNY ONE
AT THAT? CAN
I GO HOME
NOW?

YO, MISS
BALALAIKA.

IS THIS YOUR
BIRTHDAY
PARTY? IT'S
PRETTY
EXTRAVAGANT.





















IT'S BEEN
35 YEARS...

THAT
IS...

...IT'S IN
OUR MUTUAL
INTEREST...

...SINCE
THIS ROTTEN
HARBOR TOWN
BECAME A DEN
OF VICE.

...TO LEAD THE
PUBLIC EYE AWAY
FROM OUR MORE
STIMULATING
BUSINESSES...

...FOR THE
PEACE OF MIND
OF THOSE WHO
ARE CROOKED.

ROANAPUR HAS
MANAGED TO STAY
OUT OF CNN'S
EVENING NEWS OR
THE DINNER TOPIC
OF HOUSEWIVES
ONLY BECAUSE...

...FROM THE PAST
TO THE PRESENT,
THE MOTIVES OF
THOSE WHO'VE
GATHERED HERE
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN...CONSISTENT.



WE MAKE THE LAWS. WE ARE THE RULERS HERE.

A MODERN DAY LIBERTALIA. A TAINTED "ELSEWHERE."

BLESSED WITH TIRELESS HARD WORK AND A LITTLE BIT OF GOOD FORTUNE, THIS BACKWATER TOWN...

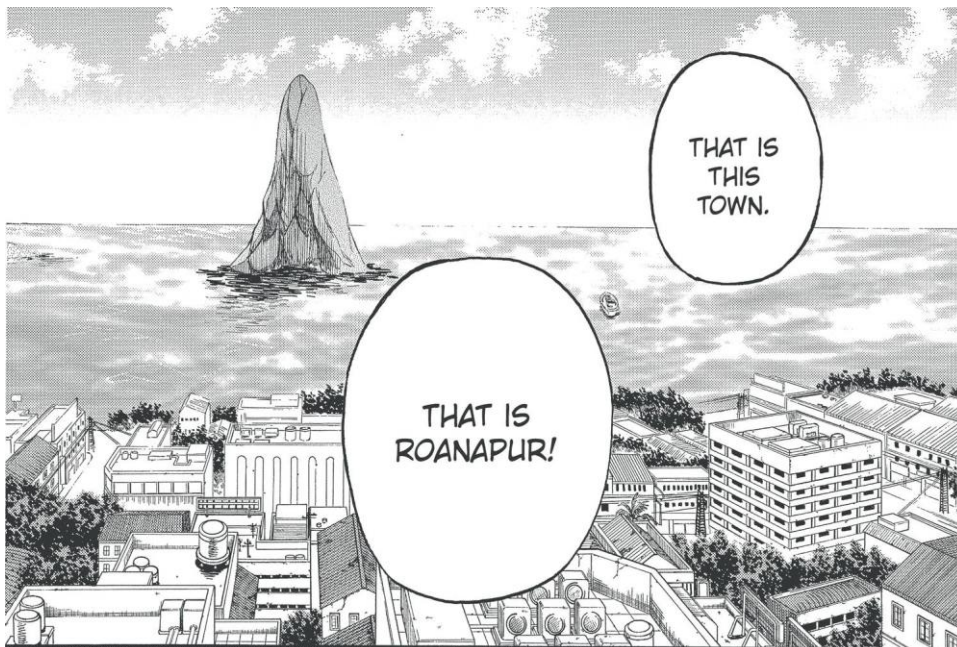
THIS ENTIRE TOWN, HAS TRANSFORMED INTO OUR HIDE-OUT.

OR PERHAPS EL REY.

YOU CAN TALK ABOUT MYANMAR'S ANGLO TOWN.

WE'RE MORE CLOSED OFF, MORE VULGAR, AND MORE EXCITING THAN ANY OF THOSE PLACES. A PLACE FILLED WITH THE ENERGY OF A MOONLESS NIGHT.

OR MAYBE JOHANNESBURG.



THAT IS
THIS
TOWN.

THAT IS
ROANAPUR!



BUT IT'S
DELICATE
AND
FRAGILE.

ONCE WE ALLOW
THE LIGHT TO
SHINE IN, THERE
IS NOBODY TO
PROTECT US.



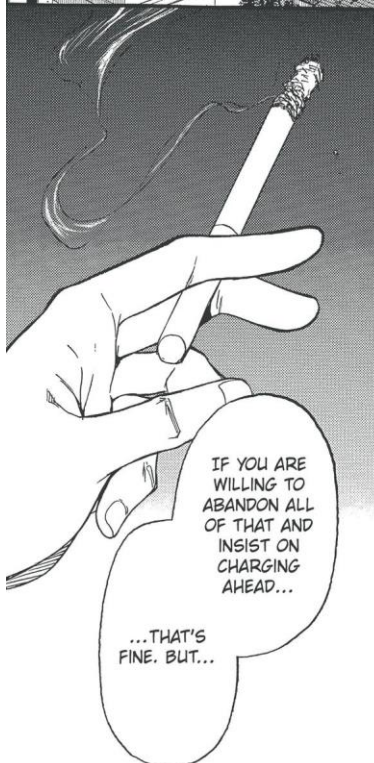
WE SHOULD
AVOID A
HEAD-TO-HEAD
CLASH WITH
THEM UNTIL THE
VERY LAST
MOMENT. THAT
IS WHAT I
BELIEVE.

ALLOW ME TO
STATE THE
POSITION OF
THE TRIAD.



IT IS
BECAUSE
WE'VE
OVERCOME
PROBLEMS AND
HELPED EACH
OTHER...

...THAT WE
HAVE THIS
PROSPERITY.



IF YOU ARE
WILLING TO
ABANDON ALL
OF THAT AND
INSIST ON
CHARGING
AHEAD...

...THAT'S
FINE. BUT...



I ASK YOU TO
RESTRAIN
YOURSELVES
IN REGARDS
TO U.S.
GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL.

AND OF
COURSE...

...THAT MAID,
WHO COULD
POSSIBLY
BECOME A
LAND MINE.



THE TRIAD
ACTS WITH
THE SURVIVAL
OF THIS TOWN
IN MIND.

UNTIL IT
BECOMES
CLEAR THAT
THEIR
PURPOSE IS
TO MEDDLE
WITH LOCAL
AFFAIRS...





SHA A A A

EL SEÑOR CONOCE
MIS DEBILIDADES.
(THE LORD KNOWS MY
WEAKNESSES.)

PORQUE NADA ES POSIBLE
SIN LA GRACIA DE DIOS, TE PIDO
SEÑOR QUE LOS CONSIGNES COMO
CONSIDERES NECESARIO.
(BECAUSE NOTHING IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT
HIS GRACE, I ASK YOU LORD TO MAKE
ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR WILL.)

PERMITE A ESTE DISCÍPULO
EVITAR LOS PECADO
ENVIADOS.
(ALLOW YOUR DISCIPLE
TO AVOID EVIL.)

Chapter 54: El Baile de la Muerte - Part XI

...POR TU DIVINA
GRACIA.
(...THROUGH YOUR
DIVINE GRACE.)

YOU DON'T
LOOK WELL.

YOU SHOULD
STOP TAKING
THOSE PILLS.
YOU'RE
OBVIOUSLY
OVER-MEDICATING
YOURSELF.



Y LLEVAR A CABO, CON
RECTITUD DE LOS
DISEÑOS DE TUS
PALABRAS...
(AND CARRY OUT, WITH
HONOR, YOUR DIVINE PLAN...)

Y DÓTAME DE FUERZA PARA
QUE PUEDA ACOGER Y
SOBREPONERME...
(PROVIDE ME WITH THE STRENGTH
TO ACCEPT AND OVERCOME...)



A LOS RETOS QUE
ME IMPONES...
(...THE CHALLENGES YOU
IMPOSE...)





DON'T
YOU...



...HAVE ANY
INTENTION OF
GOING BACK
TO THAT
MANSION?

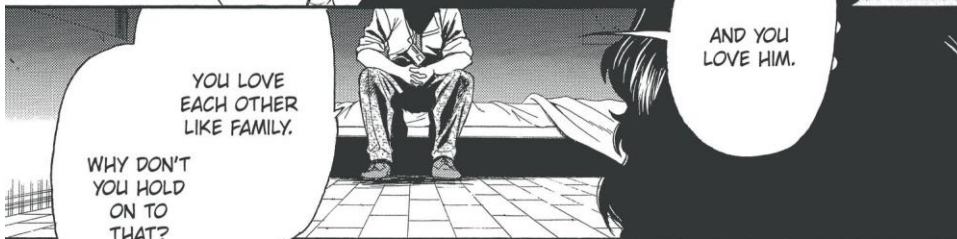
THAT BOY
MUST BE
WAITING
FOR YOU...



...AT THE
HACIENDA
WHERE THE
ORCHIDS ARE
BLOOMING.



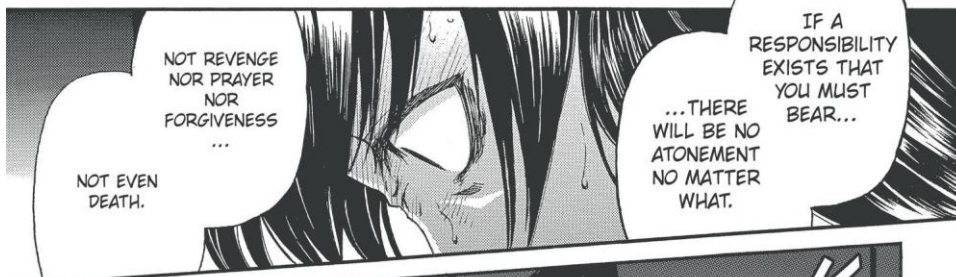
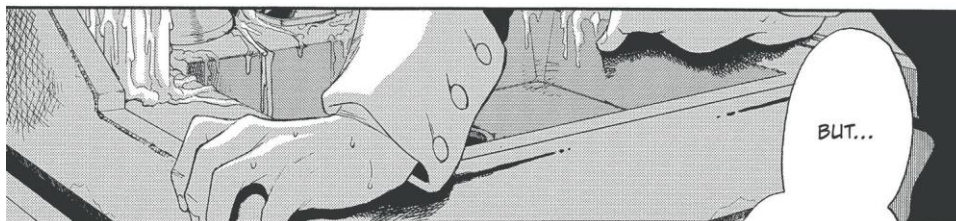
HE LOVES
YOU.



AND YOU
LOVE HIM.

YOU LOVE
EACH OTHER
LIKE FAMILY.
WHY DON'T
YOU HOLD
ON TO
THAT?







I
KNOW YOU
UNDER-
STAND...
...WHAT IS
BEST, WHAT
ACTIONS
ARE TRULY
NECESSARY
AT THIS
MOMENT.



SHUT
UP.

THAT
IS-



...THE
FIRE OF
REVOLU-
TION WAS
IN YOU.

A TIME
WHEN...

DO YOU
REALIZE
THAT,
ROSARITA?

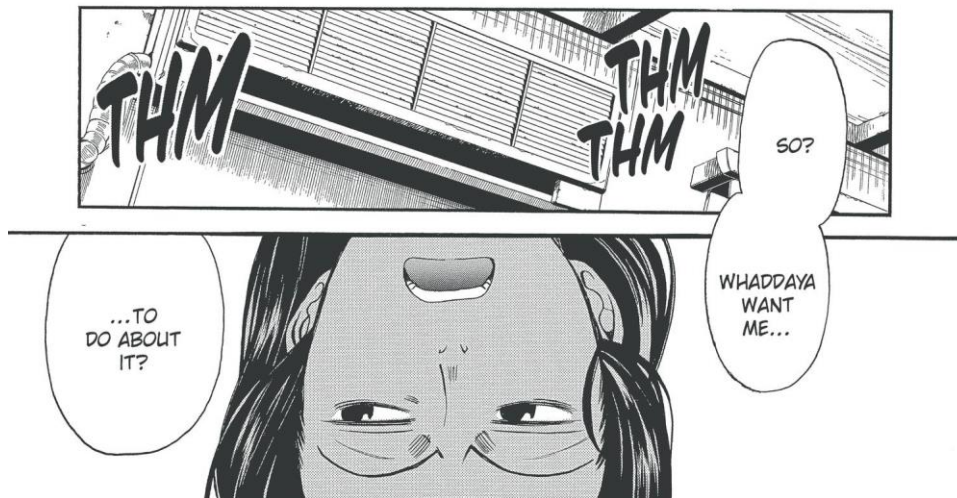
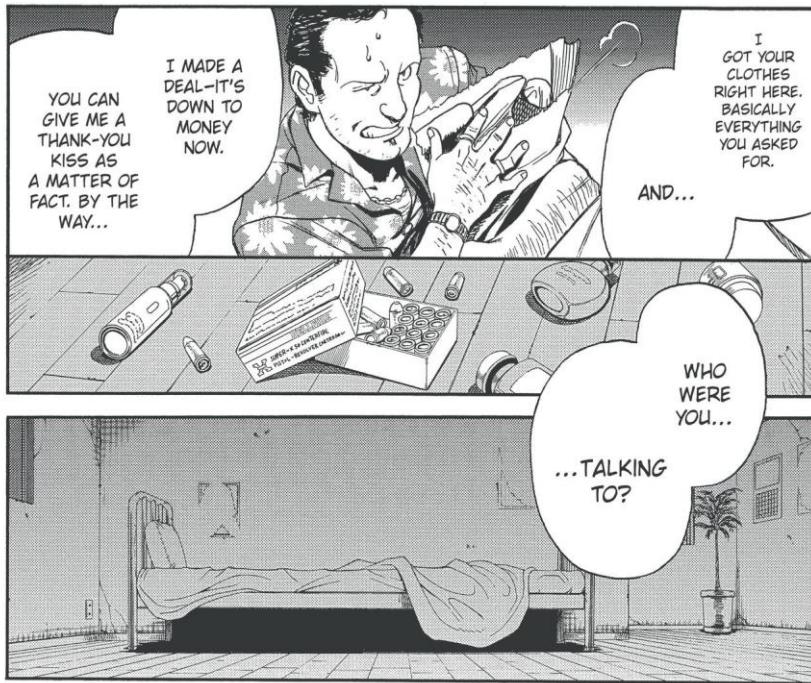
...ABOUT TO
RETURN TO
WHAT YOU
ONCE
WERE.

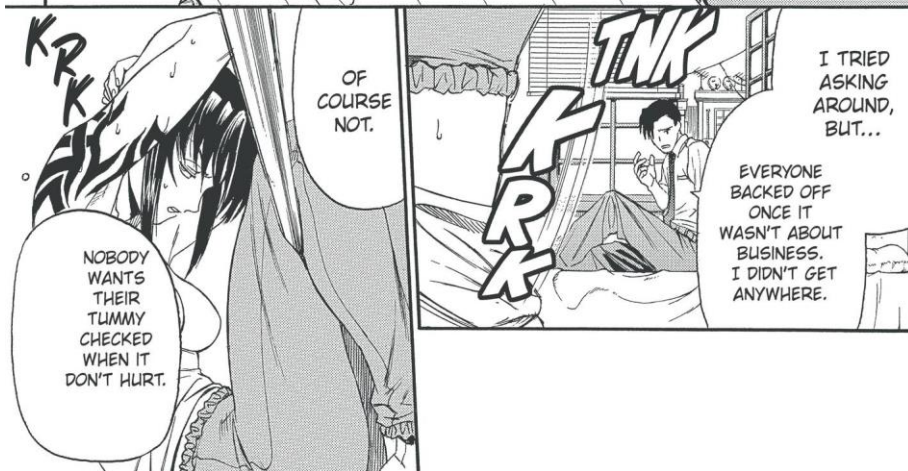
YOU
ARE...

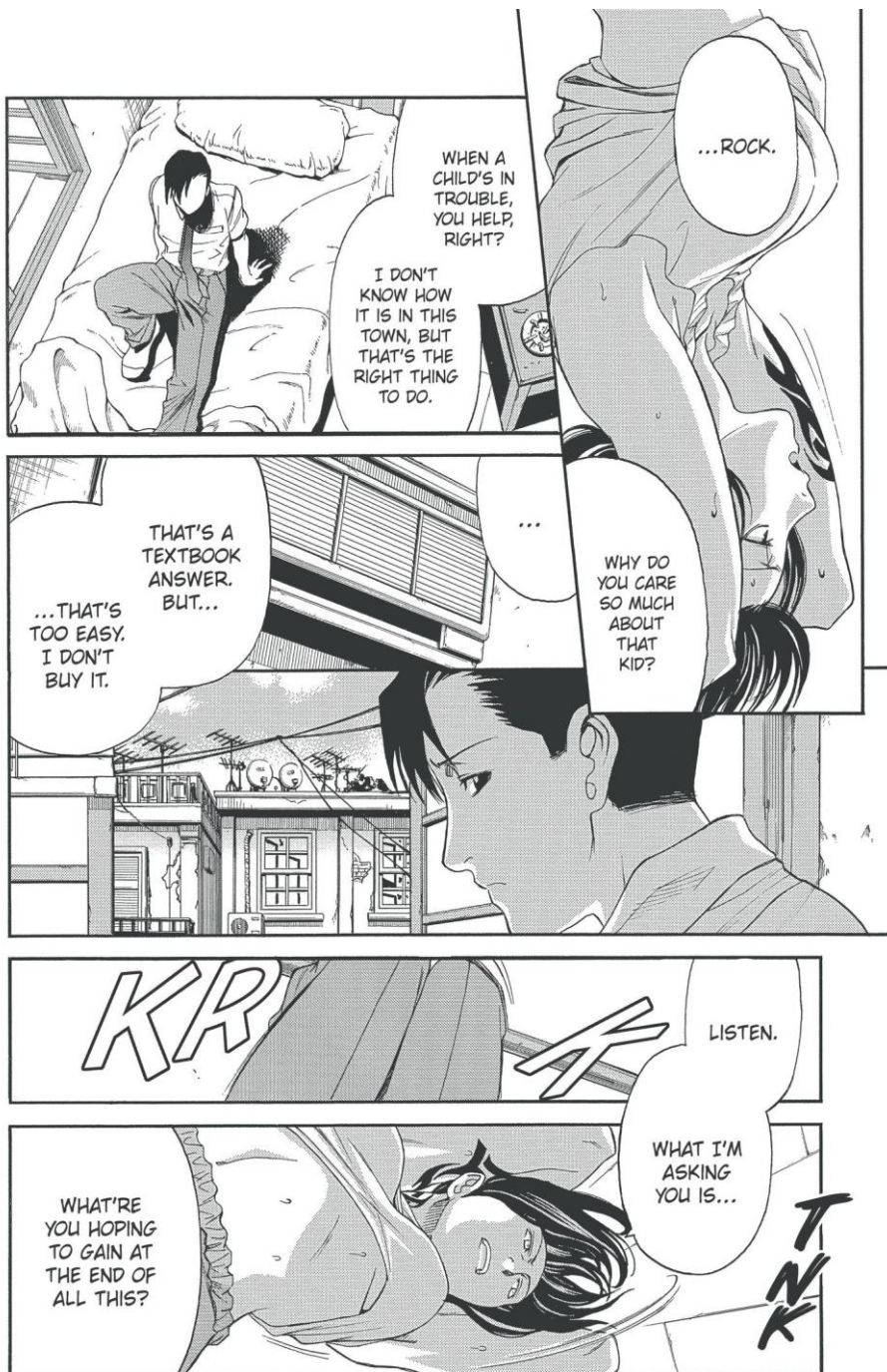
DRIP

DRIP









WHEN A CHILD'S IN TROUBLE, YOU HELP, RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS IN THIS TOWN, BUT THAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

...ROCK.

THAT'S A TEXTBOOK ANSWER. BUT...

...THAT'S TOO EASY. I DON'T BUY IT.

WHY DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THAT KID?

KR

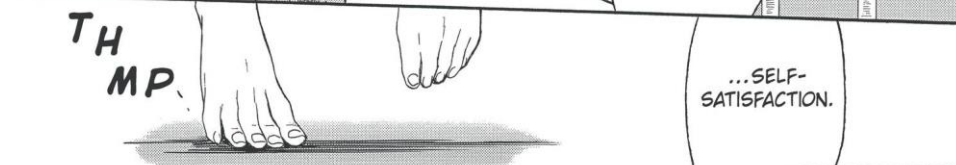
LISTEN.

WHAT I'M ASKING YOU IS...

WHAT'RE YOU HOPING TO GAIN AT THE END OF ALL THIS?

T N K







...WERE
IN
JAPAN.

WHEN YOU
TRIED TO SAVE
THE "TOP
OYABUN"
SCHOOLGIRL.



THAT'S
NOT-

YES,
IT IS.

SKWK

SKWK



WHO
FOLLOWS
YOU IN
THERE?

...DO YOU
EVER
CONSIDER
ME?



YOU...

...HAVE A
TENDENCY TO
JUMP INTO A
FIREFIGHT
WITHOUT
CONSIDERING
THE
CONSEQUENCES.

...ESPECIALLY
WHEN YOU'RE
DETERMINED
TO GO
THROUGH
WITH
SOMETHING.

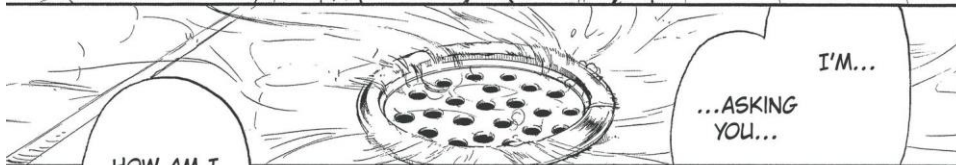




I AIN'T YOUR
NANNY OR
YOUR PAROLE
OFFICER.

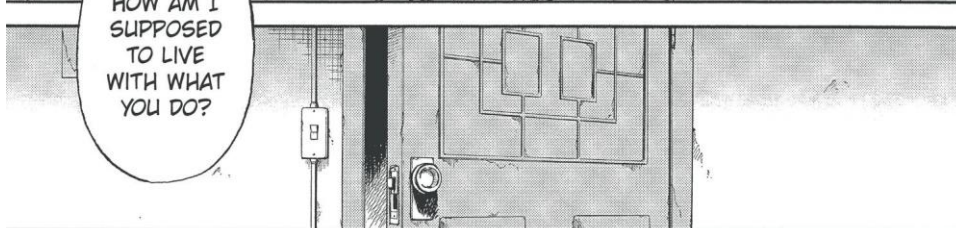
I'M
SAYING WE
NEED...

...SOME KIND
OF RITUAL
BEFORE I
FOLLOW YOU
INTO A
FIREFIGHT.



I'M...

...ASKING
YOU...

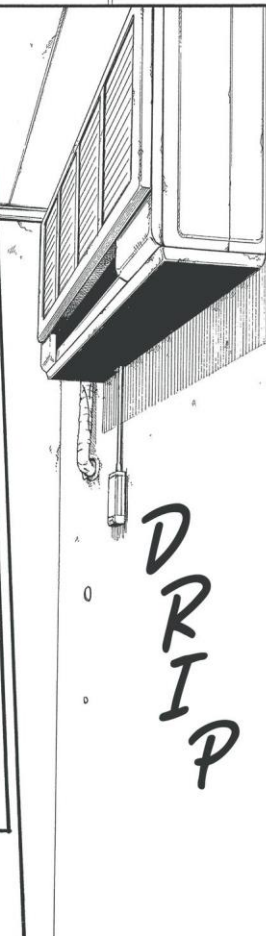
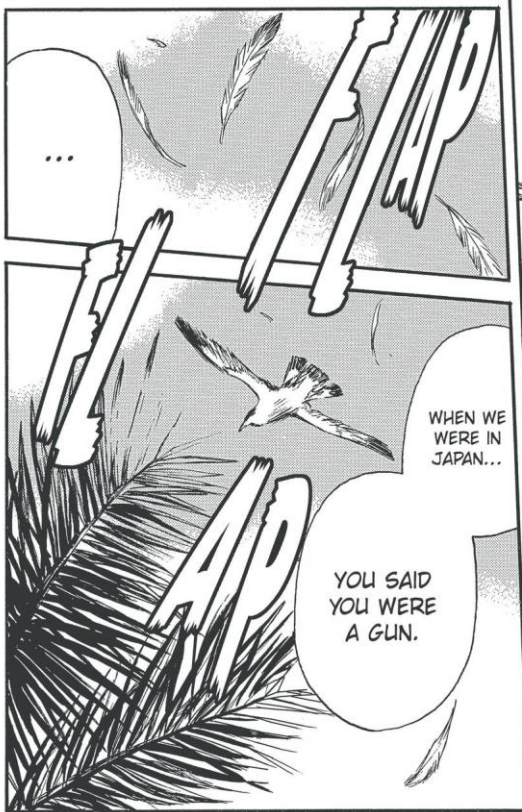
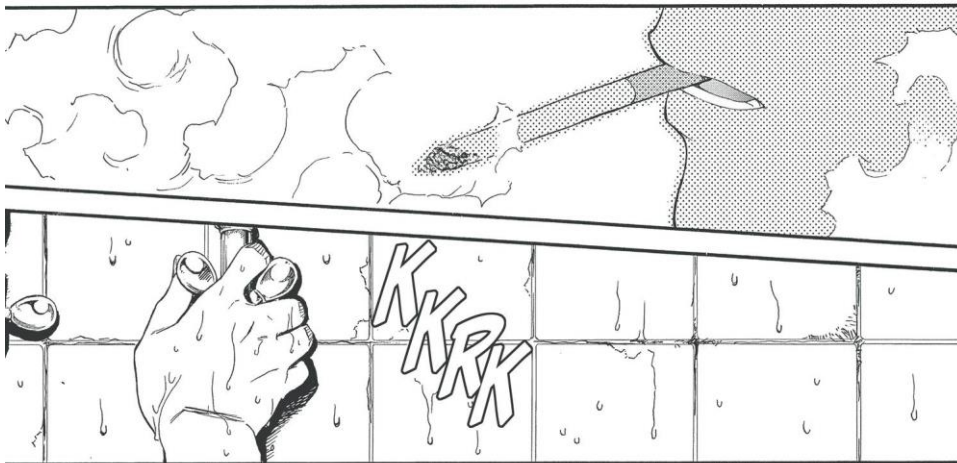


HOW AM I
SUPPOSED
TO LIVE
WITH WHAT
YOU DO?

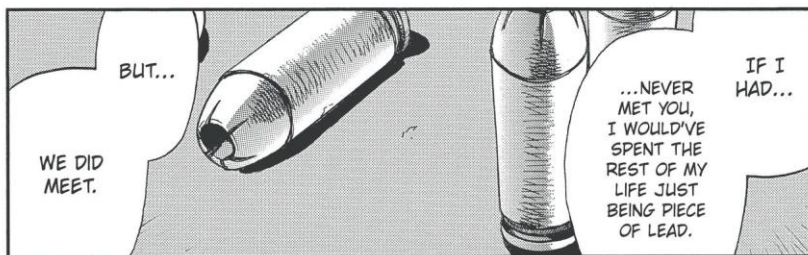


...JUST
GOING
WITH
THE
FLOW.

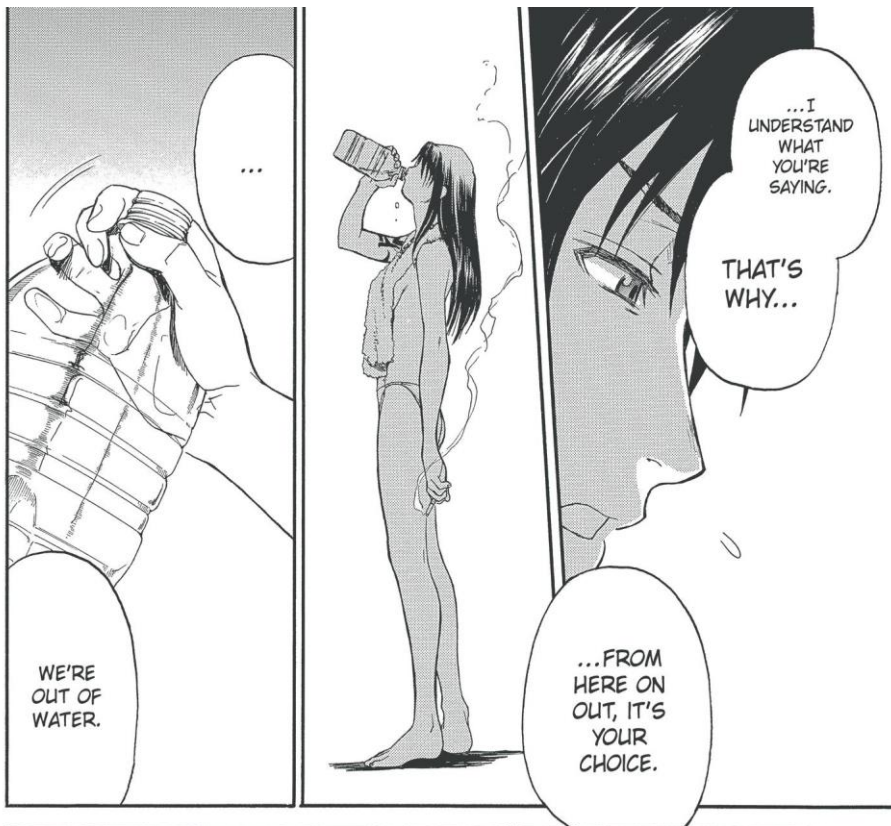
I'M
THROUGH
WITH...

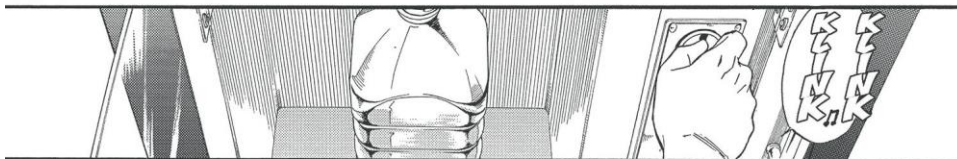


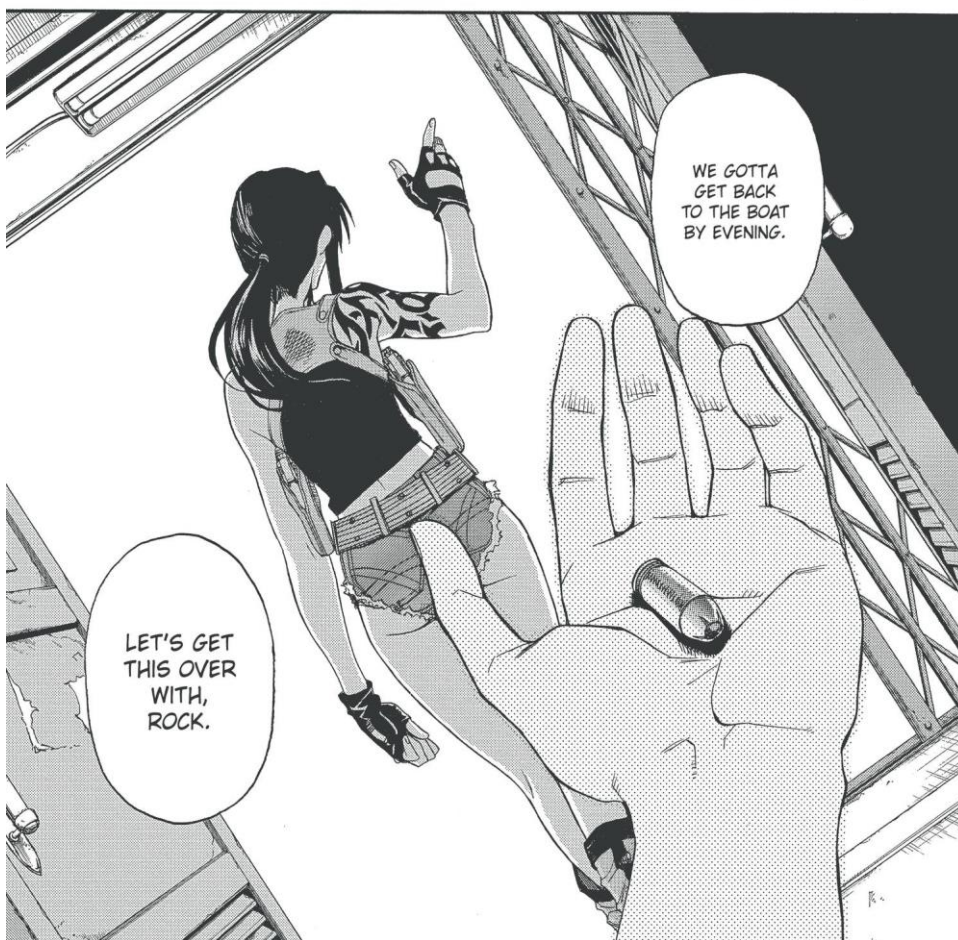


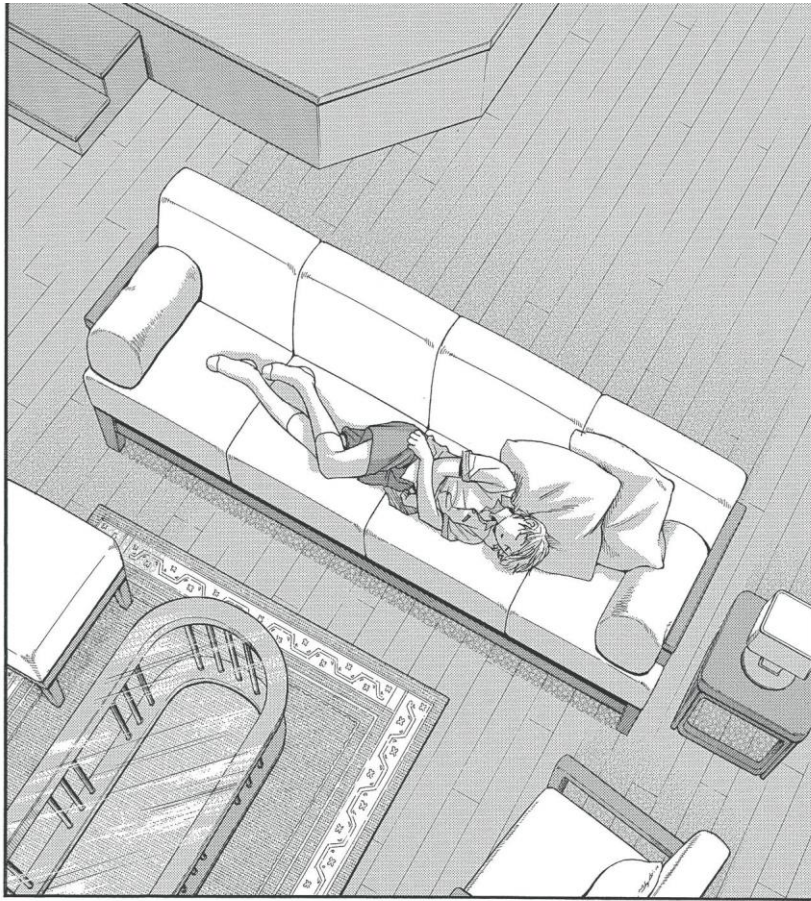












Chapter 55:
El Baile de la Muerte -
Part XII













DO I LOOK LIKE A TYRANT WHO WOULDN'T EVEN ALLOW THAT?

...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET FROM ME.

...

WE HAVE A MAGNIFICENT FOUNTAIN AT THE MANOR, BUT...

I JUST PERSONALLY HAVEN'T BEEN IN A POOL BEFORE!



...I'M SORRY, YOUNG MASTER.



...MY SANITY WOULD BE QUESTIONED IF I SWAM IN THAT.



YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY...

AND YOU COULDN'T EVEN SENSE THAT MUCH? YOU IDIOT.



WHEN THE BOSS IS ACTING LIKE THAT...

YOU'RE HER BOSS.

BUT IT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW LOYAL SHE IS TO YOU.

...HOW COULD SHE SAY SHE WANTS TO RELAX?



YO, YOUNG MASTER.

WHILE YOU WERE OUT RUNNING AROUND LOOKING FOR FOUR EYES ALL DAY...

...YOUR SERVANT HERE'S BEEN WATCHING YOUR EVERY MOVE!







YOU
HERE,
OLD
MAN?

IT'S
REVV,
FROM
LAGOON
TRADERS.



BLZT

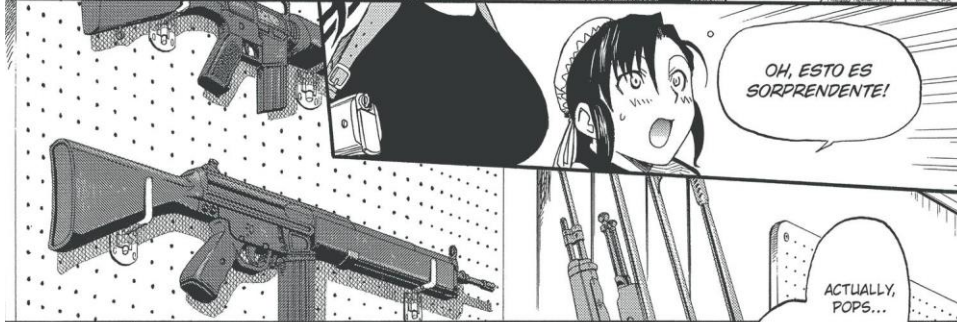


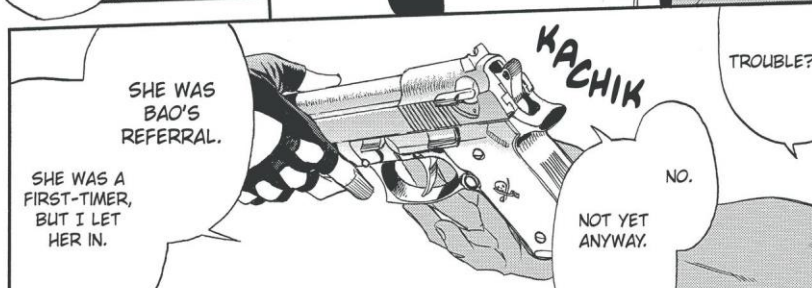
WHO
THE HELL
IS IT?

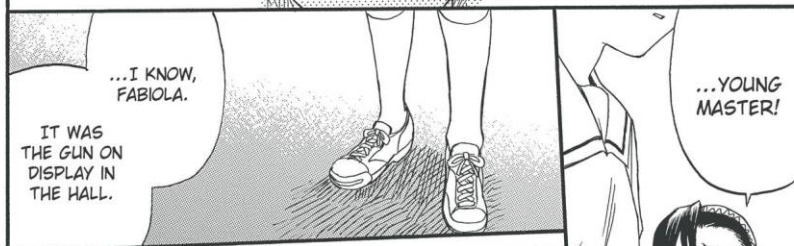
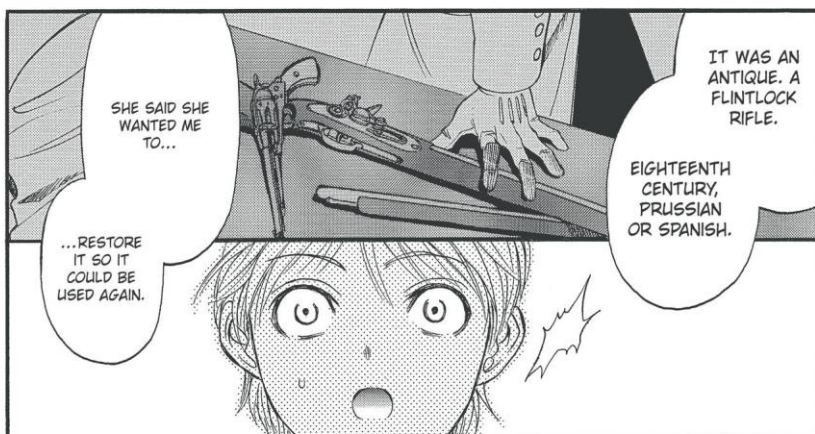
IT'S TOO
FRIGGIN'
EARLY--

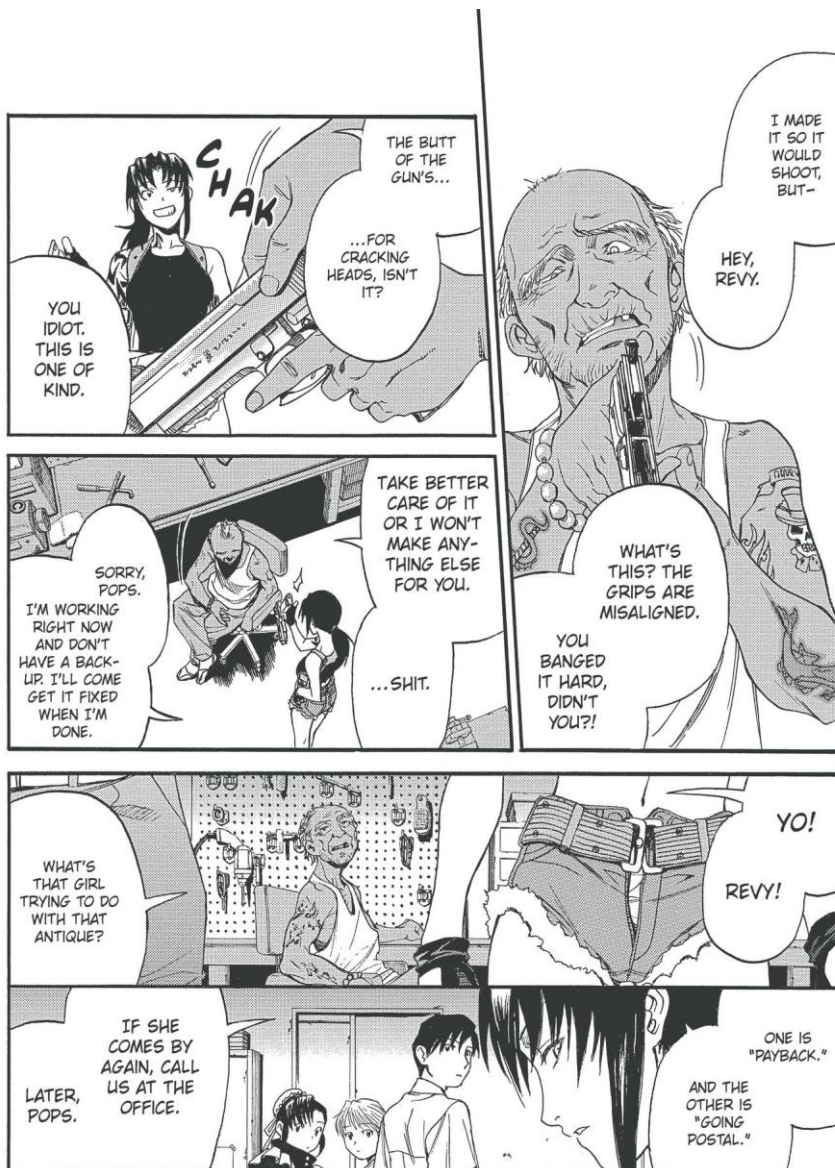
KK

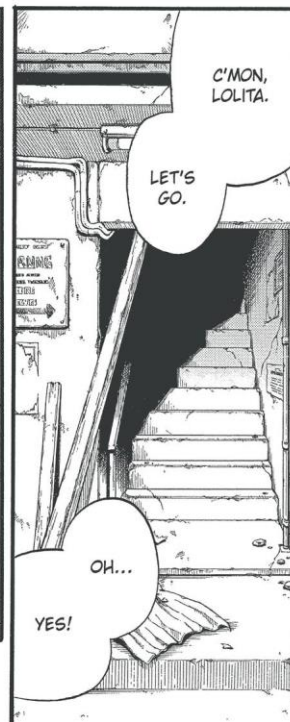
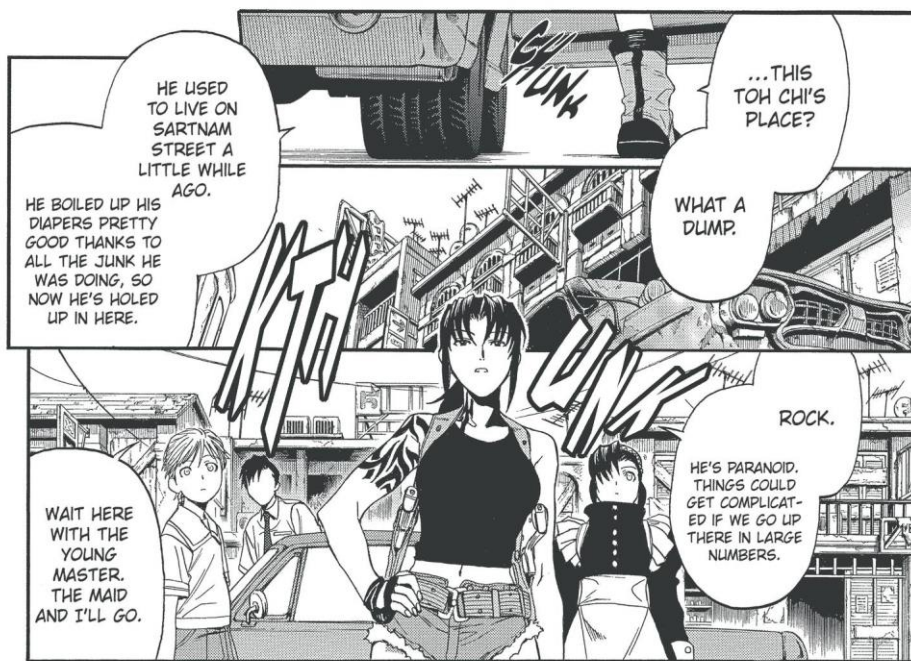






















THERE'S MORE THAN ONE SNITCH IN TOWN.

WHICH ONE WAS IT?

DON'T BE SHOOTIN' UP WHILE WE'RE TALKING, ASSHOLE.



NAH.

I THINK HE SAID HE WAS AN INFORMANT OR SOMETHING.



ONE FIX AND I'LL REMEMBER! C'MON, REVVY?!

MM...
AW SHIT, I DON'T REMEMBER!

UH...
WHAT WAS HIS NAME...?



FOR PEACE IN THE UNIVERSE.

I'LL SEND OVER SOME SHIT FOR YOU THAT'S NOT BROWN ONE OF THESE DAYS, SO THINK HARD.

HELL NO. I'M NOT FUCKING AROUND.



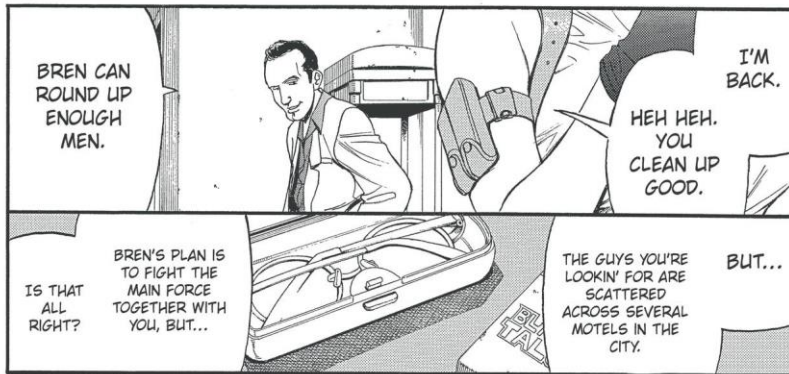
...THAT'S IT...

...ROY...



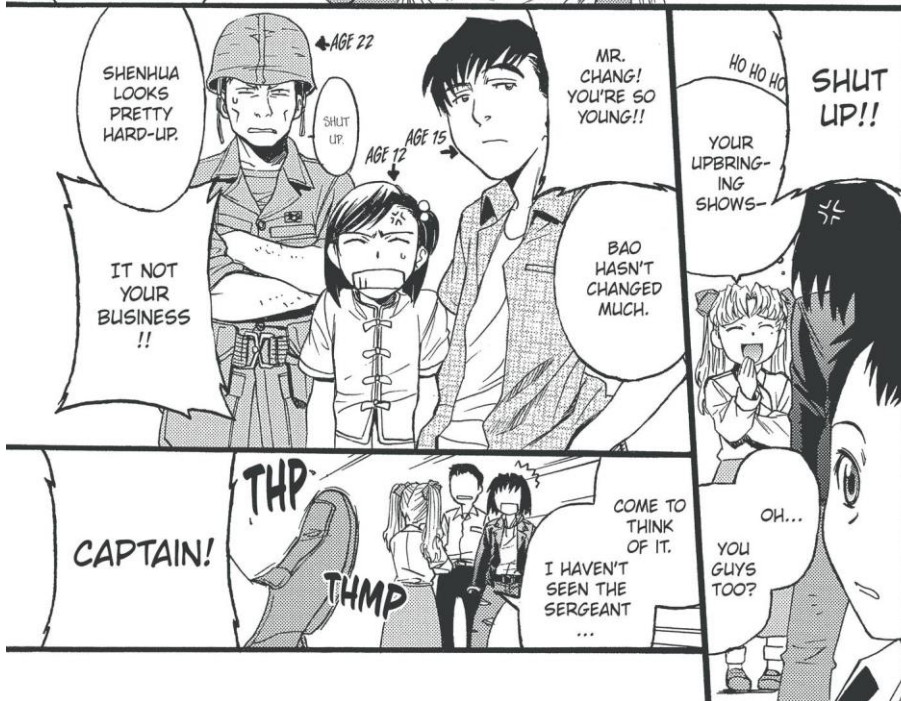
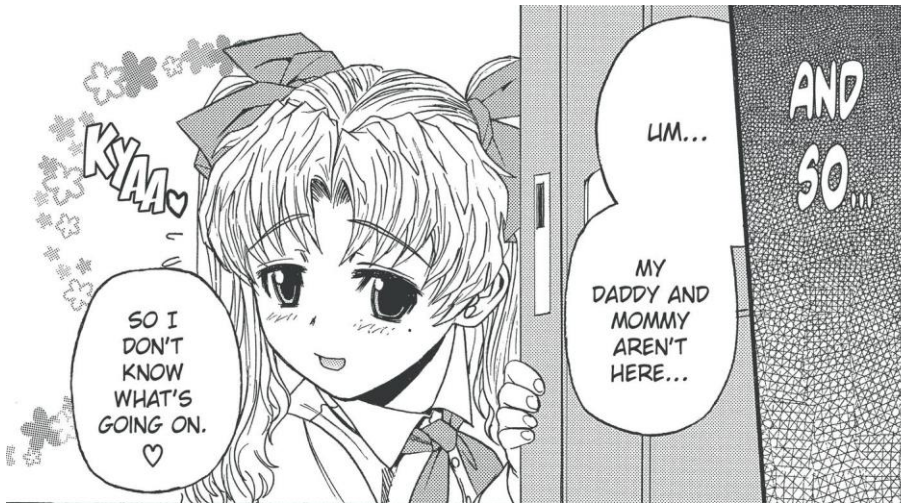
RICHIE LEROY!

K
CHK











AFTERWORD

HEY, IT'S HIROE.
THE ROBERTA ARC IS TURNING OUT TO
BE LONGER THAN EXPECTED.
BUT IT'S THE TURNING POINT AND
CONTAINS THINGS THAT BECOME
INTEGRAL TO THE REST OF THE STORY,
SO I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT. HAVING SAID
THAT, THERE'LL BE LOTS AND LOTS OF
SHOOTING COMING UP THAT I HELD
BACK ON IN THIS VOLUME.

SHOUT OUTS TO THE FOLLOWING
PEOPLE.

EDITOR/MR. WOO
ASSISTANTS/ITAKO, TODA, AZUMA

COOPERATION
ENGLISH/DANIEL KANEMITSU
RUSSIAN/MILITARY HISTORY/JUGO
TSUKUDA, ITSUKI AKIBA

COLORING/ NE-YAN

SPECIAL THANKS
KSC
ALTER/MAX FACTORY
+
ALL THE FANS.

I'M SKIPPING MY FRIENDS THIS TIME.

I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME EIGHT.

-REI HIROE, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

Editor's Note



The FARC

The *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) was established as the military wing of the Colombian Communist Party in 1964. Since its formation, the FARC has waged a guerilla war against the Colombian government and perceived U.S. influence in the region. In addition to carrying out numerous terrorist attacks, the FARC has managed to gain control of large areas of rural Colombia. In the 1980s the FARC became involved in drug trafficking with the infamous Medellín cocaine cartels, warring with some and striking deals with others. The FARC also developed ties with the IRA. Currently the FARC is still active, and the guerilla war continues. Despite several attempts at peace talks, no lasting agreements with the Colombian government have been reached.

Like many of the characters in *Black Lagoon*, Roberta is running away from the horrors of her past life. Service as a maid in the Lovelace household was a cover at first but soon became a new life entirely, and one she desperately wanted to hold on to. The assassination of Garcia's father is not only the catalyst for events in the "Baile de la Muerte" story arc, it's also a turning point for Roberta. Her story may also pose a grim question to all the characters in *Black Lagoon*: when your soul is burdened with the darkest of sins, is there any chance of redemption?

Editor's Note



U.S. SOCOM

The U.S. SOCOM (United States Special Operations Command) is a joint command that oversees the various special operations forces of the U.S. military. It includes units from the U.S. Army such as the 75th Ranger Battalion and U.S. Army Special Forces (the Green Berets), the U.S. Navy (SEALS), the Air Force (1st Special Operations Wing), and the U.S. Marine Corps. Some of the most highly trained unconventional warfare and anti-terrorism units in the world, such as the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta (Delta Force) and the Naval Special Warfare Development Group, are under SOCOM command.

Major Caxton was involved in Operation Eagle Claw, the failed attempt to rescue American hostages held by Iran in 1980. The mission was to be conducted by the newly created Delta Force but turned into a disaster because of a helicopter crash at a desert staging area. Major Caxton's service in the Special Forces goes back to Vietnam, and memories of that conflict still haunt, and perhaps guide, his actions in the present.

